



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 18.30 Thursday, July 26, 2012

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

## Menards applies for rezoning of land for store site

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

On July 16, Menard, Inc. sent a letter to Van Buren Township requesting the rezoning of 0.61 acres currently zoned R1-B to C-2 zoning, and included the application fee of \$1,198.30.

The application was signed by Richard Sloan, Belleville North Venture, LLC, owner of the majority of the property slated for the Menard site.

The project description was: Redevelop an improved parcel and three unimproved parcels for the purpose of constructing a Menard's Home Improvement and Building Materials Supply Store.

This was the first formal step to building a Menard store in the area of the vacant Farmer Jack store, although VBT Supervisor Paul White had been talking about the project for months.

Supervisor White said he first contacted Menard about bringing a store here in July 2010.

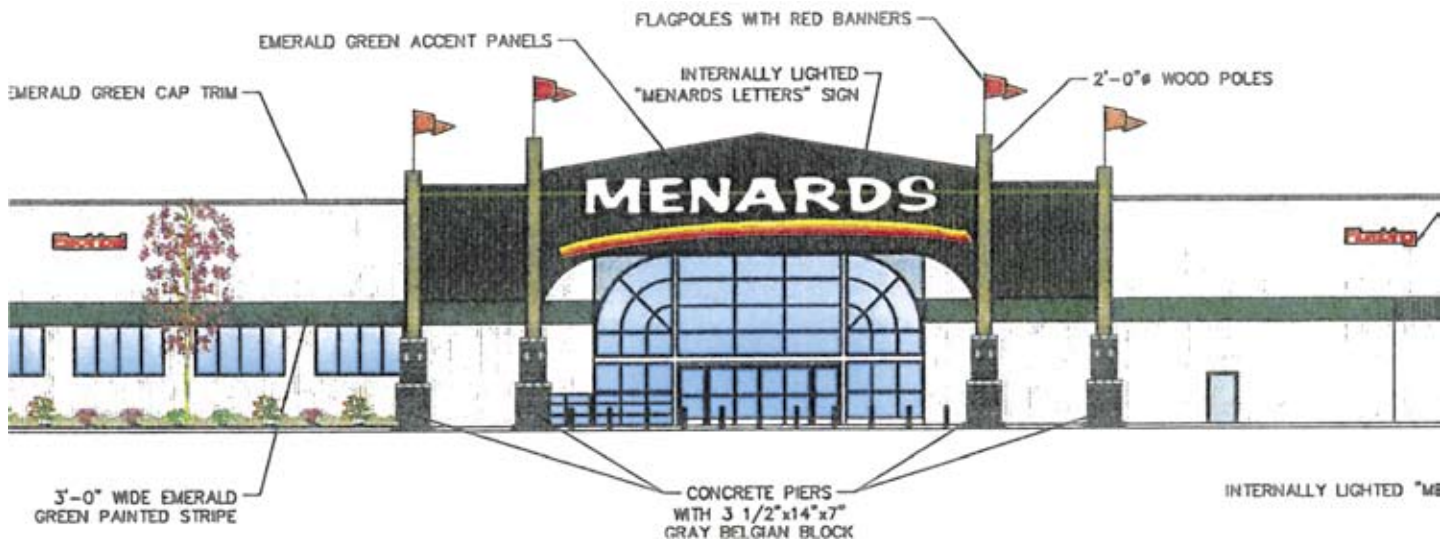
The project, which would bring 75 full-time jobs and 75 part-time jobs, is expected to take nine months to construct following the initial ground-breaking, which is hoped to be next spring.

The letter, obtained Friday through a Freedom of Information Act request by the *Independent*, said the 0.61-acre site will be incorporated into the overall Menard development currently proposed on the adjacent 20.14 acres.

Menard also sent an overall plan for the store project to VBT with legal descriptions. Plans call for the vacant Farmer Jack store to be demolished to make way for the entryway to the Menard store. No other stores in the adjoining strip mall will be affected.

The 0.61-acre site referred to in the rezoning request is the land obtained from the Wayne County Fairgrounds to enable Menard to meet township setback requirements for its new store.

At a Belleville Central Business



Community meeting on Friday, Wayne County Fair Association president Frank Rochowiak said Menard has signed an agreement to pay the fairgrounds \$110,000 for the sliver of land.

He told the CBC that the fairgrounds plan to use the money to expand electrical availability for the campsites at the north end of the fairground properties. He said campers have called for more electrical availability at the campsite. The fairground officials have been upgrading the fairgrounds facilities over the last year or so, bringing compliments from the public for their work.

Rochowiak said it took a lot of negotiations for the fair board to get the top payment for the 0.61 acre at the rear of its property.

Sale of the property is contingent upon VBT approval of the Menard project.

Mike Simonds, Real Estate Representative for Menard, Inc., based in Eau Claire, WI, asked VBT Director of Planning and Economic Development Terry Carroll for a timetable to follow for the development.

Another letter in the FOIA packet of information received Friday was dated Jan. 27 and thanked VBT Supervisor Paul White for the time he has spent with Menard officials.

"We are always happy to pursue a project

that is welcomed by the governing body," wrote Charles Sharp, another Real Estate Representative for Menard.

Supervisor White has unilaterally been pursuing the Menard project for VBT and his opponents had publicly made fun of him and doubted Menard would actually build.

Another memo in the FOIA packet of information having to do with Menard was a report on hydrant flows, as compiled by David Nummer of Wade Trim, township engineering consultant.

Nummer said he had Wade Trim people run the water model for the township to determine the fire flow capacity for the area adjacent to the previous Farmer Jack store. The water main on Belleville Road and on the I-94 Service Drive is 16-inch. There is a six-inch water main loop on the site that is also part of the model, Nummer reported.

For the 16-inch main on Belleville / Service Drive, they are getting a fire flow of 3,500 gallons per minute. For the six-inch loop on the site the fire flow was 2,300 gallons per minute, Nummer reported.

Other correspondence was from Menard asking for copies of ordinances on various topics so Menard could comply.

Drawings submitted to the township show the entrance to the new store to be in the

area where the present Farmer Jack store is located, facing Belleville Road. A second entrance, for the lumber sales, would be off the I-94 North Service Drive.

On Saturday, a delighted Supervisor White said the new Menard's store will be very beneficial to Van Buren Township area residents.

"A very important benefit will be approximately 150 jobs, which is the average for a Menard's Store. Seventy-five will be full time, and 75 part time, and the store will also add much-needed dollars to our tax base. These are very important factors for our township. A large home improvement store will help bring other businesses to our township.

"This new store will save our residents time and gas money as it will be centrally located in the township, and be more convenient for our residents than other area home improvement stores located outside our township," White said.

"Menard's offers 20-plus departments, a How-To Center, many different services, pole barn kits, and even plans and materials for complete homes of all sizes.

"Menard's has many departments for the ladies' shopping pleasure, and the men will find everything they need for the garage and yard. Menard's is the third-largest home improvement store in America."

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**VBT & Sumpter Voters'  
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# SECOND FRONT PAGE

## Supervisor White gives report on Menards to VBT DDA members

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

When Van Buren Township Supervisor Paul White was asked for an update on the Menard's project during the June 26 meeting of the VBT Downtown Development Authority, he reported the project is moving forward.

He said Menards is in the process of preparing a site plan and was scheduled to have a land survey, so the exact boundaries can be presented to the planning commission.

Supervisor White said there will be a land combination request and all the necessary project details will be taken to the Board of Zoning Appeals at the same time to expedite the project.

"They want to have everything in place so that they can put a shovel in the ground next spring," he said.

White said some of the issues are that 62/100<sup>th</sup> of an acre of the Wayne County Fairgrounds, to be purchased for the project, will need to be rezoned from residential to commercial. Also there are issues with curb cuts approval on the North I-94 Service Drive and plans for widening the entrance going into Farmer Jack's.

The outside storage of lumber may or may not have to go through the BZA for determination, he said. Also, there may be requested variance for a highway sign.

White said they would like to put up a taller wood fence than allowed. They were scheduled to do a hydrant water-flow test and have a survey to check on wetlands.

White said any zoning variance will be coming to the BZA.

White said in his recent talk with Menard's he was led to believe that a site plan application would be coming before too long.

DDA member Ron Blank asked if any of the items White mentioned would be a problem for the township to get around.

"I think they would have to show that it was not self-caused," he replied. "For example, if there is a natural feature there and you can't build because of a natural feature you are entitled to it [a variance]. But if you just want something because you want it, the BZA may not approve that."

White said another example might be the size of a sign. He said if you look at Menard's other properties, their sign might be 40 or 50 feet high like a McDonald's sign and it currently doesn't meet our sign ordinance, they have to show something like, "Hey look, we've got these natural trees growing, we can't cut them down because of your tree ordinance."

"We have to make it beneficial to them to come to the township," White said.



Independent photo by Bob Mytych

Sumpter Pharmacy on Sumpter and Willis Roads held its ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday afternoon with the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, Sumpter officials and fellow chamber members. Owner Joe Nassar offered grilled hamburgers and hotdogs to everyone attending, including the Sumpter seniors, who arrived by bus for the occasion.

"Don't let anyone on the Board screw it up," Blank said, emphasizing, "We Want Them!" The rest of the DDA agreed.

"They will bring 150 jobs, 75 full-time and 75 part-time," Blank said.

White said as of the previous week everything is on the fast track to go.

In other business at the June 26 meeting, the DDA:

- Heard a report on the DDA web site from Doug Warner and Amy Sallie of Communications Associates. The final website is planned to be presented to the DDA for its approval at its July 24 meeting;

- Heard a report from Wade Trim on the Belleville/Ecorse roads intersection. The construction bids were to be opened on July 11 and then they will have the costs and contractor determined. Within 10 days after the bid award, the contract has to present a progress schedule. According to the contract, the work must start this year and the contractor has 150 days to finish the project, or there are liquidated damages. There are no incentives for early completion. The 150 days should take the contract through next summer. There is a seasonal shut-down for paving from November to April;

- Heard a report on the audit of the 2011 fiscal year which showed total revenues of \$1,993,439 and total expenditures of \$1,718,365. Director Susan Ireland said they expect a decrease in revenue over the next couple of years;

- Heard a report from Ireland on looking for a less expensive vendor for flags for the streetscape. DDA member Curt Atchinson asked about replacing dead trees and the repair of curbing along Belleville Road. Ireland said the dead trees will be replaced

and she will check with the county about the curbing. Ireland said the trees at Fifth Third Bank were county trees that the township's landscaper sprayed with a chemical that killed the trees. Director Blank said there is a class-action suit filed against Dupont for a herbicide call Imprelis that affected mostly evergreens. Pioneer is the current landscaper and wasn't there when the trees were sprayed. Ireland and Blank will discuss whether the DDA can join the class-action suit;

- Approved a motion to authorize Wade Trim to be the Construction Phase Design Assistant for the Belleville/Ecorse project, acting as a liaison between the DDA and the county and contractor;

- Discussed the easements and sidewalks along Belleville Road and when it might move forward. Matt Stacey of Wade Trim advised that Dave Nummer had bronchitis that turned into pneumonia and was out of the office for three weeks;

- Approved a motion to accept the proposal from Wade Trim to assist the DDA with rights-of-way acquisition for the sidewalk based on their current rate schedule. The four properties needing appraisals were listed, and later amended;

- Heard Blank ask about rehabilitating the landscaping at the township hall. He commented that the buildings the township has approved are to be built beautiful, but looking at the township hall, the driveway, the island and the foundation plantings, he thinks the site looks horrible and should look better if we are courting companies to come to the township. White said there are union issues as far as maintenance, and even weeding is a problem, when you try to decide who is going to weed the property. Blank said the property needs to

be re-landscaped from one end to the other. White said it was a revenue issue and the focus is on public safety. Diane Madigan from the audience said there is a safety issue with the building because of the lack of lighting at the entrance to the township hall parking lot with the traffic island in the middle; and

- Heard Madigan invite the DDA to the Aug. 1 meeting of the Public Safety Committee. It will be held at 5:30 p.m. in the board room and there will be a presentation on emergency sirens by West Shore Services.

## BHS ribbon-cutting, open house set for Saturday, Aug. 18

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

Members of the community are invited to drop by to see what taxpayers have made possible when the \$79 million new Belleville High School complex opens its doors for public inspection at 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 18.

At Monday's School Board meeting, School Supt. Michael Van Tassel announced that the ribbon cutting will be at 10 a.m., at a spot in the school yet to be determined, and the building will be open until 5 p.m. for people to walk around and inspect.

The parking will be on either gravel or paved surface, yet to be determined, depending on how much outside work is completed.

Supt. Van Tassel said they are currently inviting speakers and working on details

(continued on page 17)

# OPINIONS

## Editorial

### Here are your local candidates

The voters of Van Buren Township have a wonderful – and bewildering -- array of candidates to consider on the Aug. 6 ballot. Sumpter Township voters also have some extra choices on their ballots.

We have invited the candidates to tell us their stories and have put them together in a pull-out section in today's paper that you can consider and make your choices.

Having a story here, a letter there, an advertisement here, a sign there, gets pretty confusing after a while. We've included a sample ballot so you can see it's really not that confusing, after all.

Read the stories on the candidates you might like and see if they suit your idea of the best persons for the jobs.

Remember, this is a primary election so you have to vote either on the Republican OR Democratic side of the partisan ballot. You can't cross over with your votes until the November General Election.

So, pick a party and stick with it or your ballot will be voided for that section. In these parts, you need to vote Democratic to make the important decisions, since that's where all but a handful of the local candidates are.

We have great confidence in the voters and we know once they are given the information they need on who these candidates are, they will make their decisions and we will end up with the most suitable people for the positions.

Once the Democratic primary is over, those candidates are sure to coast to victory in November. Choose now.

## EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

At Saturday's Family Fun Day in Sumpter, one of my Sumpter friends, who lives on Savage Road, told of a very startling thing that happened to her that still has her quivering.

It seems her husband works at night and she can't take the heat, so on hot nights she sleeps on the living room couch, since the window air conditioner is in that room which is closed off from the rest of the house.

The other night, she heard a thump in the night, but since they have two cats thumps are not unusual and she just turned over and went back to sleep.

In the morning, she found her kitchen a mess. There were two, previously frozen pot pies on the floor and the pizza from the refrigerator had been eaten and someone had made popcorn in the microwave.

She thought, maybe, they had run out of cat food and her husband put the pot pies on the floor for the cats. Not so.

It was not a robbery because her purse was on the kitchen table and nothing was missing.

After everything was sorted out, she said Sumpter Police believe an autistic boy from down the street had come over for a midnight snack. Apparently, she had not locked the house up. You can be sure the house is locked up tightly now.

She said she can't believe how unnerving this has been for her.

It sure makes me want to double-check the lock on the door before I go to sleep.

\*\*\*

By the way, for the first time in ages, the Sumpter Township Police/Fire softball team won the annual Family Fun Day game



against the Belleville Police/Fire team, 15-8. Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor, who is out on medical leave from his job, was able to come by for a couple hours and managed to catch a foul ball from the sidelines.

\*\*\*

Frank Rochowiak from the Wayne County Fair Board was at last Friday's Belleville Central Business Community meeting to tell about the Wayne County Fair coming up Aug. 6-11. He told of the different events, including the Miracle of Life exhibit, which will have livestock birthing, Monday through Saturday, 2 to 10 p.m. Those scheduled to give birth include pigs, cows, sheep, ducks, chicks, and others. He said this was a big hit at the state fair and so they are including it this year at the county fair.

Also, they are having jousting this year with a Europe/Brazil sanctioned jousting tourney which people will be able to watch free on Friday, Aug. 10, at 4 p.m. They also can watch the jousting practice at 4 p.m. free on Thursday, Aug. 9.

There are a lot of other things to see at the fair. Sounds like a great time.

\*\*\*

Kay Atkins tells me the Belleville Area Council for the Arts needs more artworks for their Aug. 10 and 11 Community Art Show. It will again be held at St. Anthony Catholic Church's Father Folta building and Kay will be cooking up a Polish dinner

to serve for the two days of the event.

For more information on how to get in the show, call her at 697-9376 or drop by to see her at Threads 'n' Treasures Quilt Shop, 129 South Street, in Belleville.

\*\*\*

In 1982 Johnny Cash as well as Jerry Lee Lewis were in Van Buren Park, according to Kim Ion of Van Buren Township. She said she and her husband Reggie along with two of their friends went to see the performers.

"I Do Not Drink, nor did I then so I don't know who Gary is getting his info from, but it's wrong," Kim said, referring to last week's report about excessive drinking going on at that 1982 concert.

"We were there, we were sober, and being young we walked all around the place and we were up by the band shell most of the concert.

"We did not see a great overuse of alcohol. Yes, some people were drinking, but some people do at concerts, and we did not see not even one couple having sex openly, or trying to hide it. People were having a good time enjoying the concert..."

Kim said my information from my source printed in last week's column was wrong.

I'm glad we had an eye witness to set us all straight. Thanks, Kim.



www.bellevilleareaindependent.com  
mail@bellevilleareaindependent.com

BELLEVILLE - AREA

# INDEPENDENT

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**Letters**

**Man from California seeks local history facts**

To the Editor:

I had a gentleman call from Santa Barbara today. He was looking for information on the Charles F. Jaeger Automobile Company in Belleville circa 1931-33. I looked in the archives but did not have any luck. There are a few articles online about it but I thought I would ask all of you for assistance.

His name is Jim Wilkins. I told him I would give you his email in case anyone had information on this company. [Jim.wilkins@verizon.net](mailto:Jim.wilkins@verizon.net) or phone 805-344-2042.

**Big thank you to all who made our sale a success**

To the Editor:


A great big thank you to everyone who helped to make our garage sale benefiting the 2012 Susan G. Komen Michigan 3-Day Walk such a resounding success. Thanks to your donations of items to sell, your purchases and your very generous cash donations, our garage sale this past weekend brought in \$900 for the fight to end breast cancer forever.

Susan G. Komen works to end breast cancer in the U.S. and throughout the world through ground-breaking research, community health outreach, advocacy and programs in more than 50 countries.

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**--Leonardo Da Vinci**



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**Thank you for returning my lost wallet to VBFD**

To the Editor:

I am thanking the person for the safe return of my wallet to the Van Buren Fire Department after I lost it in the Walmart parking lot on July 10, 2012.

Thank you,  
Mike Wisniewski  
Sumpter Township Fire Fighter

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**Women's Club sets annual Summer Social**

To the Editor:

The Belleville Area Women's Club will hold its Summer Social on Monday, Aug. 6 at 6:30 p.m. at Johnny's Grill. All interested, prospective members are invited to join the members for dinner. We will be ordering from the menu with separate checks.

For all those who would like to learn more about our programs and to reserve a spot for dinner, please contact Gloria Dougherty after 6 p.m. at 734-697-9892 prior to Saturday, Aug. 4.

Janet Millard

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Belleville Area Independent

## More Letters

### I will vote to re-elect Supervisor Paul White

Dear Editor:

The highest quality a community seeks in an elected official is honesty. Paul White has that quality in abundance.

In his first term Supervisor Paul White has run a gauntlet of taunting and heckling, mostly from lesser lights. He has suffered through nasty intrigues and deliberate misunderstandings, often fomented by the sour political holdovers of the King team.

With strong community support, Supervisor White soundly defeated an attempted recall. That vote of confidence endorsed his leadership and the leadership of Clerk Leon Wright, Trustee Denise Partridge and Trustee Al Ostrowski.

The White administration has had some setbacks and missteps, but overall Supervisor White has achieved a remarkable record of success.

Under Supervisor White our township government is now transparent. Committee and commission meetings are televised. The township board meetings are repeatedly televised for the convenience of the citizens. Budgets are posted. We have quality development with the arrival of General Electric and Menards.

Supervisor White is a master in budget management. He took us from a deficiency of approximately \$730,000 to a substantial budget surplus of approximately \$700,000. He is the quintessential "good money manager."

Despite the concerted effort of the recall adversaries, the public hecklers and the enemies within, Supervisor White has not let us down. His administration is a credit to our community.

I will vote to re-elect Paul White and ask you to do the same.

Barbara Rogalle Miller

A Van Buren Township Resident

### Public invited to Aug. 1 session on tornado sirens

To the Editor:

The residents of Van Buren Township are invited to attend a Tornado Siren Presentation at the Aug. 1, 5:30 p.m. meeting of the Public Safety Committee.

Place: Van Buren Township Hall.

Following the presentation, there will be time for questions and comments. Hope you are able to attend.

Diane Madigan

Chair, VBT Public Safety Committee

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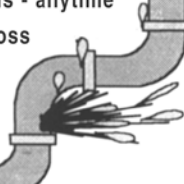
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# Obituaries



Frederick Miller

## FREDERICK I. MILLER

(January 23, 1935 - July 22, 2012)

Frederick Irving Miller, age 77, of Belleville, MI, passed away Sunday, July 22, 2012 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. He was born January 23, 1935 in Connecticut, son of the late Harold & Elsie Miller.

Fred proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force. He retired as a machine builder after many loyal years with Ford Motor Company. He was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville. During his retirement he enjoyed yard work, gardening and watching television, especially A&E programs like Bones and Criminal Minds. He was a social person who loved spending time with his grandson.

Mr. Miller is survived by his daughter Raquel Miller of Belleville, grandson Ayden Witmer, sister Joan Miller of Roseville, MI, brother Harold Miller, also of Roseville, also dear friend Beverly French of Belleville. He was preceded in death by his parents, also his wife Edna May (Przybylo) Miller on July 28, 2002.

Visitation was 1-8 PM Wednesday with a 7 PPM Scripture Service. Closing prayers will be 10:30 AM Thursday at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, processing to St. Anthony Catholic Church, 409 W. Columbia Ave. for an 11:00 AM Funeral Mass. Father Thomas H. Cusick will serve as Celebrant. Interment will be in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville.

Memorial contributions made be made to the family and would be appreciated. Please sign this on-line guest book and share a story for them to cherish at [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com).

## COLEEN RUTH LAMBERT

(April 23, 1951 - July 21, 2012)

Age 61 of Ypsilanti. Survived by her husband of 41 years Stephen, daughters Stacy and Lisa, 6 grandchildren, 1 great-grandson, her mother Lavonne Dwyer, brother Richard Dwyer, Jr., sister Linda. David C. Brown Funeral Home.



Dennis Uleski

## DENNIS ULESKI

(March 22, 1951 - July 17, 2012)

Age 61. Son of Lottie and the late Edwin Uleski. In 1983 he had a motor vehicle accident that left him severely impaired with a closed head injury. Over the last 20 years he lived in a closed head injury facility R. Cross Roads / On Golden Pond. Dennis loved his church and purchased a nameplate for a pew with his name on it. He was a member of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knights of Columbus and an officer in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree.

Dennis loved people and had many close friends. He lived with Ray and Roberta Schrock for over 20 years. In addition to his mother, survivors include his son Paul, brothers Jean (Gloria), Louis, Larry (Nancy) and Ryan, sisters Susan Reeve (Jim), and Edwina Jackson, Sharon (Phil) Singleton, Candice (Cliff) Johnson, Aunt Jean Schell, beloved best friend and caregiver Madeline Kelley, Roberta and Ray Schrock, and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral mass was held July 24, with Father Edmond Ertzbischoff as celebrant at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Ypsilanti. Cremation followed.

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**2012 Belleville Community Band Summer Concert:**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 29<sup>TH</sup>**  
**AT 3:00PM**  
**First United Methodist Church**  
**417 Charles St.**

# Schools offer grief counselor after deaths of two former students

School Superintendent Michael Van Tassel issued the following statement on Tuesday afternoon:

"The Van Buren Public Schools Family is deeply saddened to learn today of a tragic automobile accident that resulted in the deaths of two former students, Brooke Kennedy and Danielle Beavers.

"Both of these wonderful young ladies were members of the Van Buren School family since elementary school. Our hearts and prayers are with their families and friends at this terrible time.

"As a service to our community, we will have a grief counselor available at the Administration Building at 555 W. Columbia on Wednesday and Thursday between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. on a walk-in basis."

The accident occurred about 2:10 a.m. Tuesday at Michigan Avenue and Belleville Road in Canton Township.

According to a preliminary report, a yellow Chevrolet Cavalier and a white Chevrolet Monte Carlo collided, killing the two young women in the Cavalier.

## Upcoming Meetings

• Wednesday, Aug. 1 – Van Buren Township Planning Staff Review, 1-4 p.m. Also, VBT Public Safety Committee, 5:30 p.m. discusses emergency sirens

• Monday, Aug. 6 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, Aug. 7 – Primary Election

• Wednesday, Aug. 8 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

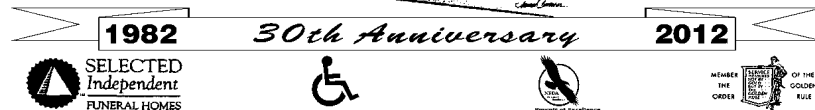
• Thursday, Aug. 9 – Keystone Academy school board, 6 p.m., at Keystone Academy. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• Monday, Aug. 13 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., Administration Building

• Tuesday, Aug. 14 – Van Buren Township LDFA, 2 p.m. Also, VBT Recreation Committee, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., followed by regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, VBT Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m.

• Wednesday, Aug. 15 – South Huron Valley Utility Authority, 10 a.m., Brownstown Township Hall. Also, Van Buren Township Planning Staff Review, 1-4 p.m. Also, VBT Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.

## David C. Brown Funeral Home



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## More Letters

### 'Untruthful comment' on lack of response

Subject: Response / Belleville Lake Current/Vol. 3, Issue 29/July 19-25, 2012

Dear Editor:

I would like to address the untruthful comment regarding my lack of response to multiple requests by the Belleville Lake Current concerning my candidacy for Trustee of Van Buren Township.

On June 29, 2012 I received a NO RETURN, NO POSTMARK, envelope. This same day I was leaving for a week vacation to celebrate my birthday (July 1st) and the 4th of July Holiday with my son, out of state.

I returned home the evening of July 6th, and opened the letter to find out the sender of the secret letter was the Belleville Lake Current. The letter was a Candidate Questionnaire, which gave me Sat. (6/30) and Sunday (July 01) by 5p.m. deadline to respond and send back.

Obviously the manner in which the letter was sent, and the pre-Holiday (Sat. & Sunday) period to respond was a poor attempt by the Lake Current to allow or even want me to have the opportunity to respond to the Questionnaire.

This one and only letter is the single request to date from the Belleville Lake Current regarding my candidacy for Trustee of Van Buren Township. There were NO MULTIPLE REQUESTS

or any other requests to me from the Belleville Lake Current. The Belleville Area Independent did send me a sender-addressed envelope with ample time to respond.

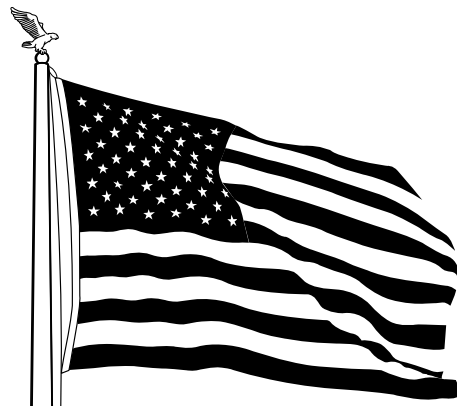
Owning a local Real Estate Business, with a very public phone number, (with 24-hour voice mail) and email, makes me available for any person or business to contact me, which was not done by the Belleville Lake Current.

In closing, I would appreciate the Belleville Lake Current printing my emailed letter to the Editor, as written. I would also ask the Lake Current to respect the ability of the voters to make their own, perceptive choices of the candidates, without the Belleville Lake Current's favorite, candidate selections.

Thank You,

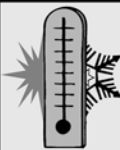
Angela Netro, Candidate for Trustee  
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## Official Endorsed Candidates List

Please help GET OUT THE VOTE on  
Tuesday, August 7, 2012



**JOHN D. DINGELL**  
U.S. House of Representatives  
12<sup>th</sup> District



**DIAN SLAVENS**  
Michigan Rep. 21<sup>st</sup> District



**JIM PEDERSEN**  
Michigan Rep. 17<sup>th</sup> District



**BENNY N. NAPOLEON**  
Wayne County Sheriff



**RAYMOND J. WOJTOWICZ**  
Wayne County Treasurer

### Wayne County Circuit Court:



**DANA HATHAWAY**



**JANE GILLIS**



**BRIAN MORROW**

### SUMPTER TOWNSHIP: VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP:



**JOHNNY VAWTERS**  
Supervisor



**PAUL WHITE**  
Supervisor



**ANDREA CHAMBERLAIN**  
Treasurer



**LEON WRIGHT**  
Clerk



**ALAN BATES**  
Trustee



**JOHN HERMAN**  
Treasurer



**WILLIAM HAMM**  
Trustee



**JEFF JAHR**  
Trustee



**PEGGY MORGAN**  
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## Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



Open Arms Lutheran Church's Child Care Center located on Belleville Road is gearing up for its annual **Open House** on Aug. 1-2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The center will be offering tours all day along with a bounce house, pizza, hot dogs, and Ponies R Us, from 10 a.m.-12 noon on Thursday. See their ad in today's paper for a discount coupon saving \$100 off your tuition. The \$39 registration fee will also be waived during the two-day event. Call (734) 699-5000 to learn more.

\*\*\*

Nothing is held back during the **Summer Blowout Sale** going on now at **Banas Lumber & Hardware** in nearby Maybee, MI. Pay what employees pay on all summer furniture, umbrellas, fountains, pools, filters, and chemicals. The store is open Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit [www.banaslumber.com](http://www.banaslumber.com) or call (734) 587-8615.

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call (734) 547-0477.

\*\*\*

The *Independent* also welcomes **Franklin Homes** at **Van Buren Estates** and Community Manager **Jolyn Gismonde**. VBE is a manufactured home community offering substantial savings to all new residents. With too many great offers to mention in this column, visit [www.franklinhomesales.com/VB](http://www.franklinhomesales.com/VB) to learn more. Visit them on Facebook or call (734) 697-4655.

\*\*\*

The **Belleville Community Band** will be performing this Sunday, July 29, at 3 p.m. at the **First United Methodist Church** on Charles Street.

The **Belleville Council for the Arts' Concert Lakeside Series** at Horizon Park continues tonight at 7 p.m. with the music of **Hank Williams and Patsy Cline**. Rain out location is **First United Methodist**.

\*\*\*

**Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue** of Sumpter is holding a **Charity Poker Fundraiser** Aug. 11-14 at **Vision Lanes** in Westland. Call (734) 461-9458 for info.

\*\*\*

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at 734-699-9020 with your suggestion. There is no cost to be in this column.



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## Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, July 26** – Free outdoor concert with the Music of Hank Williams & Patsey Cline, 7-9 p.m., Horizon Park, High Street in Belleville. Sponsored by Belleville Area Council for the Arts.

• **Thursday, July 26** – African American Book Group meets at the library at 7 p.m. This month's book: "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" by August Wilson.

• **Friday, July 27** – Van Buren Township Summer Concert Series: Delirious Love, '60s, '70s, Rock & Roll, 7 p.m., Van Buren Park, South I-94 Service Drive, \$4 per car fee at gate

• **Friday, July 27** – FREE -- Friends Family Friday Drive-In Movie, fun, food, fine films, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road (at Bemis Road), Ypsilanti. Movie questions (734) 482-5074. Show starts at sunset, 8:59 p.m. Showing tonight: Premiere of "Rogue Saint" (2012, 107 minutes, comedy)

• **Friday, July 27, Saturday July 28, and Sunday, July 29** – Great Lakes Regional Rodeo produced by the Michigan Intl. Gay Rodeo Assoc. (MIGRA) at the Wayne Co. Fairgrounds on Quirk Road, Van Buren

### Township

• **Saturday, July 28, and Sunday, July 29** – Artfair on Main, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday. Artists in booths in the middle of Main Street in downtown Belleville, and antiques in Grace Baptist Church nearby. Music, fun, food. Sponsored by Belleville Area Council for the Arts.

• **Sunday, July 29** – Belleville Community Band concert, 3 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles.

• **Monday, July 30** – Cruisin' on the Bayou car show on Main Street in Belleville, 6-9 p.m.

• **Tuesday, July 31** – Tuesday's Cruzin the Belleville Moose, 6-9 p.m., music, food, drinks every Tuesday, 831 E. Huron River Dr.

• **Wednesday, August 1** – Classic Car Show at Diamond Back Saloon, 49345 S. I-94 Service Drive, sponsored in part by Ypsi Street Rods, 6 p.m. – dark, DJs, BBQ

• **Thursday, August 2** – Free outdoor concert with The Rootsologists with special guest Kenny Brinkley, 7-9 p.m., Horizon Park, High Street in Belleville. Music Lakeside sponsored by the Belleville Area Council for the Arts.



**VOTE FOR**  
**LARRY J. FIX**  
SUPERVISOR, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

**AUGUST 7, 2012**

**No Supervisor candidates have spoken about the issues facing our community. Larry Fix outlines the problems Van Buren Township could experience if the Grace Lake Co-Generation facility is allowed to proceed as planned.**

**What does Co-Gen really mean?** It entails sticking a pipe into the middle of a toxic, chemical-filled landfill and pulling out methane gas. This gas is then sent to a generator which burns it and sends the residual matter into the atmosphere via four 60' high smokestacks. Harmful toxins will be released into the atmosphere for VBT and surrounding communities to breathe.

## Let's compare the views of Larry Fix versus the actions of Paul White

**Paul White:** Claims priority one: to represent our residents and a vote for him is a vote for yourself. He promises honesty, integrity and transparency in VBT government. White is the driving force pushing to allow the Hoosier/Ameresco/Visteon Co-Generation facility at Grace Lake. Fix is adamantly against this project being implemented at the Grace Lake (Visteon) complex.

**Larry Fix:** This Co-Generation facility is not a green energy project because no "environmental impact" study has been performed to verify how our community and our residents will be affected by the burning of methane and whatever unknown metals and carcinogens may be in the landfill. Stating it is a "green energy" project is not confirming that it is safe for our residents.

**Paul White:** "Do I fear being sued by residents of VBT or million dollar corporations?" (The lawyer from Hoosier Industries has a history of suing municipalities that deny their permit requests).

**Larry Fix:** This is a pilot, test operation. No one can answer how much toxic pollutants VBT citizens and neighboring communities will be exposed to. Why would Paul White support this and call it a "green energy project?" It is obvious to Larry Fix how harmful this will be to VBT and its residents.

**Paul White:** Intimidates Directors and weak board members to follow his directives to move forward on this project. At meetings he has asked if anyone wants to change their vote when his position is not supported. Our former Director of Planning did not support this project so pressure was applied on him until he resigned and accepted a similar position in Monroe.

**Larry Fix:** The Co-Gen operation violates numerous issues contained in the Township's master plan for Grace Lake. Various people from our Township spent countless hours working on the master plan to keep the Grace Lake facility as a designated technology, campus-like business headquarters site. The transforming of a raw materials, like methane and any associated possible toxic by-products, was never envisioned for Grace Lake.

**Is VBT better off today than we were four years ago?**

We need to **VOTE IN UNITY** August 7th  
**ELECT LARRY J. FIX SUPERVISOR, VBT**  
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# VOTERS GUIDE FOR AUG. 7

## PRIMARY ELECTION

### SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION

## 23 candidates run for seven elected positions in Van Buren Township

Twenty-three candidates are seeking election to the seven seats open on the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees.

Twenty one are Democrats and two are Republicans. The Democratic candidates will be whittled down to seven in the primary election Aug. 7, but the two Republicans who are unopposed in their races will survive to the Nov. ballot.

The candidates have graciously responded to information forms sent out by the *Independent* and here are their stories.

#### DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR SUPERVISOR

##### Paul D. White, incumbent

Paul White, age 71, 17329 Haggerty Road, is running for reelection as supervisor. He and his wife Sue have been township residents for 46 years, following five years living in the City of Belleville.

They are the parents of a son Barry, who is married to Karen Krug White, and the couple has two daughters Sarah and Kristen.

White retired from Kroger in 2001 after 40 years in the supermarket business, including the A&P in Belleville, Wrigley's, Great Scott! and Kroger. He graduated in the top 10% of his class in 1958 from Chattaroy High School in West Virginia. He took classes at WCCC Western campus.



After attending township meetings for three years as a community advocate, in 2008 White ran for VBT Supervisor and won. He said he is running for reelection to make a difference in the residents' quality of life and, among other things, to work to achieve a positive resolution of the Visteon Bond expected shortfall.

White said the shortfall in tax revenues to pay the Visteon bonds may be \$31 million if Visteon is not able to honor its obligations. In 2003, the full faith and credit of the township was pledged to cover the bond payments.

"This is the most immediate challenge for the 2012 incoming administration, in addition to maintaining very strict budgetary constraints," White said.

White survived a recall election in February 2010.

He enjoys travel, bass fishing, and helping the once-endangered Eastern Bluebird to improve numbers by hosting nesting boxes and feeding stations. There have been more than 50 fledglings in the past years.

White has been active in many clubs and organizations, including the SE Michigan Bassmasters Association, where he served as president and tournament director in 1984. He also is a member of 11 governmental groups relating to his job as supervisor.

White emphasizes that he has not accepted any campaign contributions from any firm doing business with VBT.

##### Linda Combs

Linda Combs, age 63, 47216 Ayres Ave., is seeking her first elective office as supervisor of VBT.

She and her husband Oakie Combs have lived in the township for 22 years and have two daughters, Cindy and Myra.

Combs earned an Associate's degree in Commerce from Henry Ford Community College in 1988.

She served as September Days Senior Center Director, 1995-2009, and retired from Van Buren Township in 2009.

Combs enjoys quilting and gardening.

Combs said she is running for office because: "I can make a difference in my community by bringing harmony to the board by fostering communication and cooperation.

"I am honest, have integrity, and have the ability to do the job," she said.

Once she is elected her goal is to "provide the best possible services to residents with the money available; incur savings by defining essential and non-essential services within each department."

She said she wants to ensure that the residents' voices are heard and questions are answered in a timely manner. Also she wants to operate the township business properly to avoid future lawsuits.

##### Larry Fix

Larry Fix is running for supervisor of Van Buren Township. He ran unsuccessfully on the Republican ticket in 2008. If successful in August and November, this will be his community activist's first election to public office.

Fix, age 58, is a lifelong VBT resident and lives at 13103 Ormond Drive. He is not married and has no children.

Fix attended St. Anthony Catholic School and graduated from Belleville High School. He graduated from Bowling Green State University with a criminology major. He studied Municipal Emergency Management and Municipal Contract Negotiations at the University of Michigan - Dearborn in 2012.

Fix said he worked in the private sector for his entire career, starting out at Detroit Diesel Division of General Motors as a College Graduate in Training (CGIT) where he was assigned to all facets of the personnel department, prior to an assignment in Labor Relations.

Then he joined Sysco Food Systems as a Labor Relations Manager. Traveling to Sysco locations throughout the country to settle contract disputes helped to train him on the importance of communication and respecting



others by listening to their opinions. His next assignment was in the operations department of the Sysco Warehouse in Canton.

Fix said he spent the last 16 years as the operations manager for Livonia Magnetics where he managed 26 employees and an \$8 million budget.

He said seeking the office of supervisor is a logical transition for him, since he has been involved in the VBT community since 1986, as a Little League volunteer, and since 1997 as an advocate for improved communication from local government.

Fix said he will foster teamwork on the board to benefit the citizens, always giving all the credit to the "we" team effort.

"Expanding our current shared services with the City of Belleville appears to be the most appropriate mechanism for the Economic Vitality Program that Governor Snyder has implemented to save money.

"However, as I have said numerous times, just because it comes from the state does not mean it is a perfect fit for our community. Any future combining of services must be mutually advantageous to both municipalities and include a thorough study of any future tax liability combining could cause."

Among other goals, Fix said he would cut his supervisor's pay by 15% and contribute 20% of his health care costs. He would give up the supervisor's take-home car. Then, he would ask part-time trustees to decide whether they want to accept their monthly pay or their health care, but not both.

He also would concentrate on improving the morale and operation of the Public Safety Department.

##### Timothy Allen Szetela

Tim Szetela (pronounced Zuh-Tel-a), age 46, of 13211 Mantauk Court, is seeking election as supervisor, which would be his first elective township office if voted in.

He has been an elected member of the Country Walk Home Owners' Association since he and his wife Rebecca Kesler moved into the community in 2005. In the seven years he has been on the board, he has served as president, treasurer, and member at large.

The couple has four children: two sets of twins, Grant and Gavin, 4, and Griffin and Geneva, 1. Szetela's occupation is Director of Finance and Accounting at Cash Connection in Southfield.

He graduated with distinction from the University of Michigan-Dearborn with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a focus in finance. He said he currently is working on his MBA.

Szetela is an active home brewer and enjoys making a variety of handcrafted beers, ales and meads (honey wine). He also enjoys doing home improvements and repairs, with his most recent projects being a 16x16' screened-in porch on the back of their home and installing hardwood floors.

He said he is seeking elective office because he sees many problems in the current leadership of the township and believes he has the skills,

knowledge, experience, and temperament to fix those problems and return a sense of community pride to the township.

"Our township is currently being run by an inexperienced person who is in over his head and makes poor management decisions as a result," he said. "The problem is compounded by poor communication and outright hostility to legitimate citizen concerns about the management of the township.

"Crime has increased and continues to increase, Public Safety overtime costs have not been cut as promised, the township has been subjected to hundreds of thousands of dollars in expenses related to lawsuits which never should have occurred, some residents are now required to carry expensive flood insurance due to the Supervisor's failure to respond to FEMA's revised flood plain map, and business and community development is largely at a standstill.

"Plus, he is still driving a car paid for by the Tax Payers! Our citizens deserve better than the fiasco of the last 3 1/2 years. We cannot continue to have a leader who puts his personal grudges ahead of the best interests of the township!

"We need to put aside those grudges, stop the personal attacks and have open discussions on the issues we, as a community, are facing. Experienced, professional management does make a difference and I am the candidate that will make that difference in Van Buren Township."

Szetela said his business experience includes about 20 years of experience acting as an executive-level financial manager for small to medium-sized companies. He said he also has extensive experience in human resources.

Szetela said he is not a member of any "Team" and his goal will be returning professionalism to Township Hall, encourage and promote citizen input, and attempt to eliminate the "us vs. them" attitude that seems to permeate township politics.

#### REPUBLICAN WRITE-IN CANDIDATE FOR SUPERVISOR

##### Julianne Chard

Julianne Chard, 49029 Togowtee Pass, has filed as a write-in Republican candidate for Van Buren Township Supervisor. The write-in votes she receives on the primary ballot will earn her a spot on the November ballot.

#### DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR CLERK

##### Leon Wright, incumbent

Leon Wright, age 51, of 9961 Andover Drive, was elected clerk in 2008 and is running for reelection.

He has been married to Janice D. for 24 years



(Continued on next page)

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(Wright continued from previous page)

and they have two sons, Leondre, a student at Central Michigan University, and Jabari, a student at Belleville High School.

Wright attended Holmes Junior College for accounting clerk. He has completed the Michigan Municipal Clerks' Institute and completed Michigan Township Association classes.

Wright is vice president of the Andover Farms Home Owners' Association, is active in the Men's Ministry at New Hope Baptist Church, belongs to the BHS PTO Tiger Parents group and enjoys golfing, running, and cycling.

He belongs to the International Institute and Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks, Wayne County Clerks' Association, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Michigan Township Association, and has been appointed to the MRMA Events Planning committee.

Wright said he is running for reelection because as VBT Clerk he has made significant progress towards maintaining and improving the services the township provides and, "I pledge my commitment to continue on our path towards excellence."

He said he doesn't believe in making campaign promises, but he does believe in having a vision: "A vision of growing together as a community where all residents share in the decision-making process and work towards continued prosperity for all."

"This will become a reality if we maintain a strong Public Safety Department, and partner with our schools and local businesses."

Wright said that over the past three years, other communities have endured layoffs, cutbacks in services and consolidations.

"However, we have been very fortunate in our ability to maintain a high level of service for our residents by making fiscally responsible decisions."

"We have met the challenge of moving forward and growing as a community with less revenue and I will continue to seek ways to improve on the foundation we have built."

"We should celebrate our diversity and embrace the social and economic changes. My vision for the future is to see Van Buren Charter Township develop into a community of excellence admired by others. My roles is to help ensure that this becomes a reality."

## Karin Elaine LaMothe

Karin Lamothe, age 38, 8466 Moms Drive, is running for township clerk, her first elective office.

LaMothe has been married to Shawn for 16 years and they have three children: Dakota, Maverick, and Kayt.

LaMothe said she is deeply rooted in Van Buren Township. She lived in the Belleville area for 22 years collectively, most recently moving back into VBT in 2008. She said four generations of the LaMothe family have lived in VBT.

She holds a bachelor of science degree in Organizational Communications and a master of arts in Communications from Eastern Michigan University.

LaMothe is employed as a Communications Specialist for the Livonia Public School. Before that she was Communications Coordinator for the Van Buren Public Schools. She also has



been an AFSCME Account Clerk for Van Buren Charter Township.

LaMothe is a member of Northridge Church and has served on several parent committees for the Van Buren Public Schools. She has served as a Girl Scout and Boy Scout leader, volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, Van Buren Goodfellows, Belleville Cougars, VBT Millage Renewal committee, and advocacy efforts for Lyme Disease awareness.

"Being actively involved and giving back to the community is what I have always done; service and volunteerism are important to me," LaMothe said. "I cherish our community's rich history and I am committed to actively engaging our residents in the vision of what is possible for its future."

"Given the difficult economy, working collaboratively to create solutions to financial obstacles we face is vital. I have the skills, experience, and commitment work with all stakeholders in the community to ensure effective solutions are created."

If elected, LaMothe said she will strive to maintain quality services in an efficient, cost-effective manner; create innovative community programs and resources for seniors and youth; bring job-creating businesses to the community; promote local area businesses and buy-local campaigns; and ensure fiscal soundness by developing a multi-year financial plan.

## DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR TREASURER

### Sharry Ann Budd, incumbent

Sharry Budd, age 70, of 42700 North I-94 Service Drive, is seeking reelection as township treasurer.

She has been married to Bill for 47 ½ years and they have three sons: Jim (wife Donna), Jeff (wife Rhonda), and Jay (wife Lynn), which brought them eight grandchildren.

Budd graduated from Huron High School and attended Detroit Business College and Wayne County Community College. She is a Certified Public Finance Administrator through the Association of Public Treasurers United States and Canada. She also is a Certified Professional Treasurer through Michigan Municipal Treasurers Association and holds the Township Governance Academy Credential through the Michigan Township Association.

Budd is a Certified Municipal Clerk and Certified School Board Member.

Budd was elected to the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education in 1989 and 1993, serving until 1996 when she was elected VBT Treasurer.

She has been elected VBT Treasurer in the 1996, 2000, 2004, and 2008 elections.

Budd belongs to the Belleville Area Historical Society, the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, Wayne County and Michigan Municipal Treasurers' Associations, and the Association of Public Treasurers United States and Canada.

Budd enjoys gardening, some arts and crafts, and reading.

Budd said she is running for reelection because, "As a long-time resident, I want to continue to assist in providing the best service for the tax dollars you have entrusted me with as your treasurer. As a member of the board, I will continue to make decisions to insure a 'quality of life' for our residents, make sure budgets are



balanced, provide customer service and be your advocate and your voice."

Budd said her goals are "to continue to monitor revenue and the services we provide and how costs can be shared. Provide police officers and fire fighters and maintain this area as a priority. Encourage growth to provide jobs."

### John A. Herman

John A. Herman, 6329 Greenwood Court, is seeking the office of VBT treasurer.

Herman served as township trustee for more than 10 years, where he was active on the planning commission. He currently serves as treasurer of the Economic Development Corporation.

He is married to Patricia and they have a son Timothy, a daughter Pamela, and three grandsons, Dennis Jr. and twins Cole and Chase.

Herman has lived in VBT for the past 29 years. He retired from Ford Motor Company after 35 years of service.

In 1974 he graduated from Schoolcraft College with an associate degree in Applied Science. In 1976 he was certified in Human Resources/Industrial Relations Management from Ohio State University.

In 2006 he graduated from the Michigan Township Governance Academy. He also has been trained in planning and zoning from the Michigan Township Academy; taken classes in industrial risk management; fire fighting from Michigan State University; Fire Awareness, Emergency Response Planning, and Incident Commander from MSU; and various other in-service training.

In the early 1970s, Herman served on the Garden City school board and served as deputy clerk. He was appointed probation officer of Garden City in 1972 and served until 1993. He also was a leader in the Garden City Jaycees and St. Raphael Catholic Church in Garden City.

He is president of the Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club, past president and treasurer of the St. Anthony Church Men's Club, Usher Club, Belleville Area Person of the Year 1999/2000, member of Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce and Council for the Arts; Knights of Columbus in Garden City for 31 years; Eagles in VBT; and charter members of C.H.I.P.S. and Citizens for Public Safety committees.

Herman enjoys boating and skiing.

Herman said he is running for office because, "The current treasurer got the township taxpayers in a financial bind with the Visteon Village Municipal Bonds. Our residents will be liable for the payment of those bonds after the sale money and the back taxes settled money runs out on or before the years of 2017 or 2018."

Among his goals if he is elected are: to find creative ways to pay for the Visteon Bonds; to establish a host committee and negotiate a royalty plan for the proposed Ameresco Methane Gas to Electricity Plant. "This should be located at the Waste Management dump site." This would help pay for the Visteon Bonds. Also, "The company should post a cash/surety bond for the life of the operating plant."

Herman also said he would support local businesses and bring new businesses into the community.

Herman wants to have all three full-time officials work together as one unit, actively listen, and make decisions in the best interest of ALL township residents.



### Harry R. Roesch

Harry R. Roesch, age 63, 47541 North Shore Drive, is running for VBT treasurer, his first bid for elective office.

He is married to Edith and they have four children: David, Kyle, Matthew, and Jennifer. They have lived in the township for seven years.

Roesch is retired from Great Lakes Steel. He has a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Roesch serves on the board of Community Focus Federal Credit Union.

He said he is running for office because, "Working at Great Lakes Steel for 35 years in various management positions has given me the opportunity to develop and track many budgets."

"As chairperson of Community Focus Federal Credit Union, I have interfaced with its members, staff, auditors and regulators. This has given me a variety of experiences. The skills I have acquired throughout my life have given me the background and qualifications to serve our township as treasurer."

As far as goals, Roesch said, "After watching many board meetings and seeing how our community is divided, my primary goal is to create an atmosphere at the township and on the board that encourages board members to work together, sharing ideas, communicating with each other, and then coming up with the best plan for our community."

## DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR TRUSTEE – 4 TO BE ELECTED

### Phillip Craig Hart, incumbent

Phillip Hart, age 54, of 12992 Linda Vista, is seeking reelection as trustee.

He married Karen in 1984 and they reside in the house they built in 1986, so they have lived in the township for 29 years. They have two daughters, Ashley and Blair, and both are graduates of Belleville High School and Eastern Michigan University.

Hart has a Bachelor's in Business Administration from Northwood University and an Associate's degree in Commerce from Henry Ford Community College.

He is a member of the Michigan Township Association, Michigan Township Governance Academy, and Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce.

He enjoys traveling with his family, cooking for family and friends, maintaining his yard, and "enjoying the great outdoors and what it has to offer."

Hart has been employed by Ford Motor Company Dearborn Engineering Center for 34 years. He has held multiple technical and administrative positions and has been the recipient of "Distinguished Achievement" awards for his work.

As a New Model Launch Specialist, he is responsible for leading Launch Teams in the introduction of New Model Vehicles. The Team is made up of Design, Manufacturing and Quality Engineers and Global Suppliers. He also is responsible for budgets and Human Resources management.

"One of my key attributes is that I welcome and embrace a 'Team' approach; I respect all



(Continued on next page)



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(Hart continued from previous page)

"opinions and I treat everyone with respect," Hart said.

Hart said he is running for re-election because he said he has been effective in representing the residents and there is much more work to be done.

Hart listed goals after election in Human Resource Management, Public Safety, Planning and Economic Development, and the Visteon Bond.

Of the bond, he plans to "resolve the Visteon Bond concern by getting a stronger commitment from Visteon that they will indeed address a bond shortfall if one develops... Root cause of the issue is that commercial property values dropped due to the recession; this has a direct correlation to the amount of taxes which are collected in the district to fund the bond payment. I have personally made it quite clear in face-to-face discussions with Visteon Management, that I along with the residents of Van Buren Township, expect them to stand behind their commitment and fully address this matter. I will continue to encourage other Board Members to join the effort."

## Jeffrey Lincoln Jahr, incumbent

Jeffrey Jahr, age 69, of 45281 Harmony Lane, is seeking reelection as trustee. He has already served three terms as trustee.

Jahr was married to Patricia for 39 years until her death in 2005. They had three sons: Jeffrey S. Jahr, Daniel Jahr (deceased), and James Thurston Jahr.

He has lived in the township for 39 years and has been a general practice attorney for 44 years. He is former Westland City Attorney.



Jahr graduated from Belleville High School in 1960, graduated from the University of Michigan in 1964 with a bachelor in pre-legal studies, and from U of M Law School in 1967 with a Juris Doctor degree. He has taken post-graduate courses toward an L.L.M. (taxation) at Wayne State University Law School, and continuing legal education throughout his career.

Jahr ran unsuccessfully for Judge of the 34<sup>th</sup> District Court in 2002.

He has served appointments to the Westland Mayor's Force on Youth, Westland Economic Development Corporation, Westland Zoning Board of Appeals, VBT Zoning Board of Appeals (from 1989 to present), District Library Planning Committee, Wayne County Library Board, and VBT Environmental commission (2000-present).

Jahr belongs to the State Bar Association, Michigan Democratic Party, Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club, Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, and Friends of the Belleville Area District Library.

His hobbies include boating and do-it-yourself projects.

Jahr said he is seeking reelection because he enjoys serving as a trustee and believes he can continue to make a valuable contribution to the community.

"I like interacting with our residents and representing their interests," he said. "I have learned to listen objectively and appreciate the opinions of others. If reelected, I will continue to ask questions and express my position on issues that come before the board ... I believe that my background and experience will enable me to work with the other board members as we respond to the many challenges facing the

township in the next four years."

Jahr said he will not make unrealistic campaign promises that the township cannot afford and that will never be enacted.

He said his goal, if elected, will be to "help maintain the basic level of services that our residents deserve and expect"... and to promote the township's unique advantages and "restore and maintain our reputation as a great place to do business and to live and raise our children."

He also wants to keep the community safe and he supports the appointment and retention of the best possible management teams for all departments.

## Albert Ostrowski, incumbent

Albert Ostrowski, 57, of 41720 Savage Road, has filed for reelection as trustee. He was first elected in 2008. He did not return his candidate form, so here is his background information from his 2008 form.

Ostrowski has lived in the township for nine years. He is divorced with three children and is employed as an animal control officer for the City of Dearborn.

He is a graduate of Gabriel Richard High School Class of 1974. Ostrowski is a member of the Michigan Association of Animal Control Officers and a board member of the Buster Foundation, an organization for pit bull rescue and education.

Ostrowski served as a popular VBT Animal Control Officer, capturing feral cats and helping with wild-animal removal as well as the usual dog service, until being pressured to resign by township officials. Now he works for Dearborn and has a business on the side that helps residents with removal of unwanted animals.

## Denise Rose Partridge, incumbent

Denise Partridge, 61, of 46060 McBride, is running for reelection as trustee. She was first elected in 2008.

Partridge is married to Steve and there are five sons: Eric Partridge, Greg Partridge, Jeffrey Blaha, Derek Blaha, and Gavin Partridge.

Partridge, who is retired from Van Buren Township, has lived in the township for 36 years. She is a high school graduate with some college courses.

She belongs to the Belleville Area Council for the Arts, Belleville Area Historical Society, Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club, Michigan Democratic Party, and VBT September Days Seniors.

She enjoys reading, gardening, and bicycle riding. She said the baby-sitting she does is not a hobby, but she enjoys children.

Partridge said she is running for office because, "Civic-mindedness and service-orientation compels me to serve my community as trustee and also in volunteer work with the museum, Council for the Arts, etc."

Partridge said one of her goals is to assist some of "our volunteer groups by way of the VB Cultural Advisory Committee. Also, my goal is to continue to vote on issues keeping in mind the best interest of our residents as a whole, first and foremost.

"Another goal is to continue to communicate and collaborate professionally and positively with my fellow board members."

## Allen Joseph Babosh

Allen Babosh, age 45, of 13213 Mantauk Court, is seeking his first elective office in his



bid for a trustee seat.

Babosh is married to Angela and they have two children Jacob and Shelby. He has lived in the township for nine years.

He is Transportation Supervisor for New Center Community Services.

Babosh attended Schoolcraft Community College.

He said he is running for office, "for the people of Van Buren Township because of what they have given to me and my family. I was brought up that you must give back tenfold on what you receive."

"I know how great this community is; the main reason is because of the people who live here. Right now the people of Van Buren Township need leadership with new ideas. We need leadership who has the ability to think outside the box. We need elected officials who want to protect what we have and also have the vision to use the great resources we have in our people and location to make us one of the leading communities in commerce."

"We also need elected officials who want to protect what we have become. I have the experience to make the decisions for all the residents of Van Buren Township. We also want to continue to be a community where people live and come to relax and have a safe and enjoyable time."

"I am running as a resident of Van Buren Township and for all residents of Van Buren. To be elected to public office is a privilege. Elected officials need to be reminded they work for the residents and that is a responsibility that can't be taken lightly."

Babosh said his goal, once elected, is to "reestablish the trust of the residents and their elected officials. We need to look at all the options we have to protect funding for Public Safety, DPW, Seniors, Parks and Recreation, etc. These are all very important parts of our community and we need to make sure the funds are there to keep these departments able to provide the service we are used to and expect to receive."

"I will recommend adding to the agenda of every Board of Trustee meeting, an oral and written report by the Supervisor on the state of the budget and each department. This will take about 5 to 10 minutes, but this will also lead to questions and comments which usually happen in the non-agenda part of the meetings."

"This will lead to more openness and opportunity for the residents to know what is going on in the township. We need to add any questions or issues that residents bring up at the Board of Trustees meeting to the next scheduled one. If they can't get an answer or response at the time they ask, they need to know the next time they will."

## Patrick Scott Brooks

Scott Brooks, 46, of 6225 Western, is running for a trustee position, the first time he has sought elective office.

He has lived in the township for 46 years and is married to Felicia Paris-Brooks. Their children are Brian Gibbings, Amber Brooks, Christopher Cottrell, and Courtney Cottrell.

Their daughter in law is Jamie Gibbings and grandchildren are Ruby and Riya.



Brooks is a business owner and employee of Delta Airlines. He received his education at Belleville High School.

He has coached both Belleville Area Little League baseball and Van Buren Soccer. He has been a member of the Belleville moose and Van Buren Eagles.

Brooks said the voters in the community inspired him to run for the office of Trustee in Van Buren Township. "After passing a school and public safety millage, I believe the people in this community, much like myself, are dedicated to progress."

As to his goals once elected, Brooks said, "I would strive for true transparency in our local government. I believe the citizens of our township deserve the respect to have their questions answered truthfully and in a timely manner. By listening to the resident's questions, comments and opinions, decisive decisions will be made with their best interest in mind."

## Patricia Denise Johnson

Patricia Johnson of 7266 Anna Drive is running for trustee. She did not return her candidate form asking for information.

## Diane M. Madigan

Diane M. Madigan, age 59, of 16163 Bak Road, is running for trustee.

She and her husband of 33 years, Carl Johnson, PhD, have lived on a small farm in the township for 22 consecutive years.

She has two stepsons, John and Steve, and two granddaughters, Julia and Samantha. Also in the family are four German Shepherds, one Belgium Malinois, and 14 laying hens referred to as "The Girls".

Madigan grew up in Allen Park, attended St. Frances Cabrini Schools, and took some classes at Wayne County Community College.

She was elected to three terms as National Secretary for a 5,000-member non-profit that preserves the working characteristics and breeding principles of the German Shepherd Dog. She currently is elected member to the Board of Inquiry committee which investigates violations of bylaws and wrong-doing by its members.

Madigan was appointed in 2009 to a volunteer seat on the VBT Public Safety Committee and currently is chairperson. She also volunteers for the Woods Creek Friends as a ditch dipper for Site 7, collecting water samples for testing.

She started training dogs for a hobby over 30 years ago with Terry and Dianne Schoenbach. This grew into a passion that took her into competitive tracking, obedience, and protection. She currently is a Lifetime Member of a non-profit group that is dedicated to preserving the working heritage of the German Shepherd Dog and promoting good breeding practices.

Madigan said she is running for office because, "The residents' wishes and concerns need to have a great influence in making decisions. I believe my presence on the board would bring a greater representation of the residents. As a representative, I will work to put the SERVICE back into Public Service."

As far as her goals, once in office, "I believe I can motivate the entire board to work as a TEAM to develop programs and safety initiatives." She also will, "make well-informed decisions based on research and communication with the residents" and "Welcome new and existing business that support our Public Safety, Schools, Library, Parks and Recreation, and



(Continued after sample ballots)





## More Letters

### The story on what really is happening in VBT

Dear Editor:

After reading another paper that shares the first name as this publication does, I was reminded of something I mentioned over two years ago. I will get to that in a moment. While

reading that paper I could see right through its Founder's true intentions for his motive for starting that publication, but before I go deep into his motives, I do want to share his comment two years ago when he stated at a Van Buren Township Board meeting that he would create a paper that would put this paper (*Independent*) out of business.

Well, after two years it hasn't worked. The reason for this article is to share what I know, what I've seen (in the last three years) and what the intentions of the other paper are.

The first thing is I thought that this culprit would've raised its head a lot sooner than it has. That being said, I knew two years ago this day would happen (July 19, 2012, pg. 14 BLC) that's the day that the true intentions of this so-called Founder was exposed by himself.

He created a publication that started off with all the characteristics of a quaint hometown newspaper that stayed completely out of politics and would stick to advertising and homegrown news articles with some flare.

Then, about nine months ago, through some of his staff and a Co-Founder's spouse, the true colors started to run. Then, low and behold the truth came, the agenda was printed, and the gloves were off. Now, I will tie up some loose ends. This Founder with deep pockets, that's had issues with pet stores and recruited from a group of VBT Re-callers, set in motion a newspaper to push an agenda that he couldn't do on Feb. 23, 2010 (The Recall).

Now to get to my opening statement; I told multiple individuals back then that the other paper was only created to put in place a machine to set this township back to its old ways of doing things (through the Good Ole Boy's system). Well, I hope that's not the case and that VBT residents can see through the guise!

Right from the beginning of his article/opinion, he shows his true colors by stating the recall was close. Not so! Secondly, he adds that the four survivors of "his recall" were calling the three past incumbents "Sour Grapes". Well, he got that one right because they were! The interesting thing is, he failed to admit his defeat and retreated with his tail

between his legs along with the others. Fast forward to the present (but let's remember some of the past). VBT has been dragged into some major problems due to what I termed as "The Holdovers'" poor decision making or bad planning. Can we all say Visteon?

Now let's add Ameresco/Hoosier to the phrase. (It's the Co-generation boondoggle that a majority of both sides of the Board has saddled us with.) Yes, Mr. White, Mr. Wright, Mrs. Budd, Mr. Hart, Mr. Jahr all voted to allow potentially the worst health problem this township may ever endure. This problem can also affect property values and increase our taxes since VBT will be on the hook for the loss of revenue and the BOND snafu! (\$55 million)

Now that I have your attention, I would like to dissect the theory of this "Founder" by giving my opinion of the coming election and the candidates he's endorsing. First of all, I think it's Chicago politics for a newspaper to outright name individuals for public office that he wants in place. I always thought that newspapers were to try and stay as neutral as possible. Guess that's not the case with the current publication I'm writing about.

Let's start with his pick for Supervisor. After doing some personal research, I find it alarming that Mr. T would care to digress back to his old ways by causing distention or distractions in the office of the township Supervisor. It's a fact that there are some legal issues that have engulfed one of the Supervisor candidates and his wife. This candidate is endorsed by Mr. T. The way I see it is, that any husband should do whatever it takes to protect his family, family assets and integrity. The problem here lies in the fact that the office of township Supervisor should never be acquainted with any type of litigation past or present on a personal nature.

That being said, I can't believe this candidate would even broach the idea of continuing to run for said office with this potential distraction for both him and the office of VBT Supervisor. Again, I reiterate that Mr. T likes to keep distractions occurring in our township hall.

Moving on to the author of the past recall which is running for township Clerk, again another individual that Mr. T is endorsing. I find issue with someone that wants to run for office that couldn't play by the rules over three years ago. That person and others couldn't allow the election process to finish and wait four years to oust someone they didn't like. They wanted to circumvent the process (albeit that it was legal, but costly both financially and emotionally) that just goes to show this is not a team player or one who is patient enough to let the Constitutional process play out!

Lastly, I also believe that I am well-positioned to make sound recommendations and I do have an obligation as an activist in this community with an extensive knowledge of the goings-on here. That being said, I will make it short and sweet: Every candidate that Mr. T endorsed, I DO NOT!

Ask me and I will gladly tell you who the best candidates are for VBT with a history.

Respectfully,  
John Delaney

The "Agitator" aka Blue Tooth  
Van Buren Township Resident

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Mention this ad and receive a one time \$5 discount on grooming!

Dogs	Cats	Other Services
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Heartworm Test \$19	Rabies 1 yr. \$14	Pocket Pet Exam \$18
Rabies 1 yr. \$14	Rabies 3 yr. \$16	Anal Glands \$12
Rabies 3 yr. \$16	Heartworm Test \$25	Micro Chip \$30
*Discount rates for litters.		Fecal Check \$10
De-worming also available		Toe nail trim \$5

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**PET SPA, 5260 Willis Rd., YPSILANTI, Sun., Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>, 4-6 p.m.**  
**PET RESORT, 50425 Bemis Rd., BELLEVILLE, Wed., Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, 5-8 p.m.**  
**PET SPA 2, 970 Sumpter Rd., BELLEVILLE, Sun., Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>, 4:30-6 p.m.**

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CAT NEUTERS - \$35**

## More Letters

### Return Vawters' Team to office in Sumpter Twp.

To the Editor and the Residents of Sumpter Township:

I would like to announce to the great Residents of Sumpter Township, my candidacy for re-election as Trustee. If I am privileged to be elected again, I would be serving my third term in office.

Sumpter Township has been home to my husband Bud and I since 1985. We have proudly raised our two sons, Richard and David, in Sumpter (both of which graduated from Belleville High School and both are serving our Country in the U.S. Army). Bud and I have been married for 27 years. He recently retired, after more than 30 years at Ford Motor Co. I have enjoyed working for Van Buren Public School's Transportation Department for the past 17 years. We also have a 2-year-old grandson, Riley.

I served on many committees before I was elected for the first time, such as the Board of Review, Economic Development Committee, and the Public Safety Building Committee. Since being elected, I have proudly served as the Township Board Liaison to the Parks & Recreation Commission, and was proud to be appointed recently to represent our great Fire Department as their liaison to the Township Board. I have also had the pleasure of serving on the Sumpter Country Festival Committee for the past 8 years.

I am also a member of the Michigan Democratic Party, the Southwestern Wayne (County) Democrat Club, a founding member of Sumpter's Democrat Caucus Club, and the Michigan Education Association (MEA).

I hope you feel as I do that balancing the budget for eight straight years, especially in these times, is one of the Board's greatest accomplishments, while still keeping the services you expect and deserve.

It's up to you, the voters of Sumpter Township, to elect officials that you can put your trust in to oversee your Township and I hope you feel that we are still up to the task, by returning me and the other current board members at election time (Aug. 7). So, I am asking you to support myself, and the rest of The Johnny Vawters' Team, by returning us to office. We would very much like to continue representing Sumpter Township!

Peggy Morgan  
Candidate for Re-election as  
Sumpter Township Trustee

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## A SUPERVISOR for the RESIDENTS

**Vote  
August  
7th  
Primary**



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Welcome to  
Van Buren  
Township

**Supervisor  
Paul D.White**

**A VOTE FOR PAUL D. WHITE  
IS A VOTE FOR Yourself**

e-mail [White4VBTSuper@aol.com](mailto:White4VBTSuper@aol.com)

**PRIORITY ONE: Represent Our Residents**

Paid for by:  
Friends of Paul D. White  
17329 Haggerty Rd.  
Belleville, MI.. 48111

Endorsed By:  
UAW Region 1A  
South Western Wayne Democratic Club  
Member UFCW Local 876-539

**Paul D. White**  
DEMOCRAT for  
**Van Buren Township  
Supervisor**

- **PROVEN LEADERSHIP**
- Improved 2011 Budget by \$1.254M
- Increased 2011 General Fund **\$730,000**
- 6% Water & Sewer Millage not renewed saving our residents thousands of \$\$\$\$\$
- Proven Fiscal Responsibility
- Reduced cost of Staff this term
- Honesty & Integrity Proven
- Transparency in VBT Government
- Elect Officials wages frozen 2010-2011-2012
- Open Door Policy for Residents
- Represents VBT In many Committees

**Re-elect**

## LEON WRIGHT FOR VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP CLERK

- **Commitment**
- **Leadership**
- **Collaboration**
- **Preservation**
- **Community/Service**

My vision for the future is to see Van Buren Charter Township develop into a community of excellence admired by others. My role as Clerk is to help ensure that this becomes a reality. **On August 7, 2012 choose to vote and re-elect me, Leon Wright for Van Buren Township Clerk.**

***"It's the Wright thing to do."***

Endorsements by:

- Southwestern Wayne Democratic Club
- UAW Region 1A
- Detroit Police Officers Association

Paid for by Committee to Elect Leon Wright, 9961 Andover Drive, Van Buren Township, MI 48111

**Thank you for your support!  
Clerk Leon Wright**

## RE-ELECT JOHN W. MORGAN FOR SUMPTER TOWNSHIP TREASURER!



**Re-Elect**  
**John W. Morgan**  
**Sumpter Township  
Treasurer**

- Continuous Balanced Budget for 32 Years!
- Expanded Services in Treasurer's Office!
- Reduced Operating Costs!
- Strong Advocate for Homeowner Property Values

- Proud United States Army Veteran
- Endorsed by Sumpter Township Democratic Caucus Club
- Member of Wayne County Treasurers Association
- Member of Michigan Municipal Treasurers Association
- Member of Belleville Area Council of the Arts
- Treasurer of Sumpter Progressive Civic League
- Member of Michigan Assoc. of Retired School Personnel
- Member of Sharon SDA Church



Paid for by the CTE John W. Morgan, 27555 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI 48111

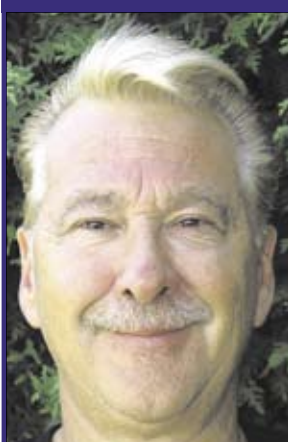
**Elect**  
**Johnny Vawters' Team**  
**Voices for the People  
DEMOCRATS!**

**Johnny Vawters**, Supervisor  
**Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr.**, Clerk  
**John W. Morgan**, Treasurer  
**Alan D. Bates**, Trustee  
**Bill Hamm**, Trustee  
**Peggy Morgan**, Trustee  
**Don Swinson**, Trustee

1. Paved Roads
2. Completed water service to all residents
3. Reduced senior water billing
4. Negotiated contracts while reducing costs
5. Sewer service to high populated areas
6. Welcomed new businesses into township
7. Expanded recreational opportunities
8. Helped with the development of programs & activities at Crosswinds Marsh



# RE-ELECT WILLIAM "BILL" HAMM FOR SUMPTER TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE!



## Re-Elect **William "Bill" Hamm** Sumpter Township Trustee

- Active UAW Member 33 Years
- Parks and Recreation Member 5 Years
- Country Fest Co-Chair
- Planning Commission Member

**VOTE:  
AUGUST 7**



- Building Department Liaison
- Sirens Installed With More to Come
- Sumpter Township State Certified Firefighter
- Certified Medical First Responder
- Certified Advanced PADI/Diver
- Endorsed by Commissioner Kevin McNamara
- Endorsed by Southwestern Wayne Democratic Club
- Endorsed by Sumpter Township Democratic Caucus Club

Paid for by the CTE William "Bill" Hamm for Sumpter Township Trustee, 21411 Karr Rd., Belleville, MI 48111

**- Elect -**

## Johnny Vawters' Team

*Voices for the People*  
**DEMOCRATS!**

**Johnny Vawters**, Supervisor  
**Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr.**, Clerk  
**John W. Morgan**, Treasurer  
**Alan D. Bates**, Trustee  
**Bill Hamm**, Trustee  
**Peggy Morgan**, Trustee  
**Don Swinson**, Trustee

**VOTE:  
AUGUST 7**

1. Hired more road patrol officers
2. Hired and certified new firefighters
3. Reduced speed limits on certain roads from 55 to 35
4. Worked diligently on correcting the FEMA flood zone
5. Hired assessing personnel
6. Shared services neighboring communities for cost savings

## School Board

(continued from page 3)

for the event.

School Board President Martha Toth said she is sure the public will be very impressed with the building.

Paul Wills, of Plante Moran CRESA, which has been overseeing the construction project, said the athletic wing, media center, and classroom towers are currently being commissioned and the demolition of the old building is almost done.

He said the project is substantially complete and there is \$368,500 that still could be used for items allowed by laws governing the bond issue.

He said work continues on the cafeteria/commons roof-raising and rebuilding. He said the roof will be 32' high and the new trusses are in place. He said the trusses were delivered recently in the middle of the night to make transport through the city easier.

He said the project is actually one year ahead of schedule. The school board had approved an accelerated construction schedule which worked out well.

School Board secretary Kevin English reported seeing an ocean of chairs in the new building after they were delivered and waiting to be put where they belong.

Wills also reported on the renovations to South Middle School paid with money from the Sinking Fund. Work includes renovations of the kitchen to provide for the food preparation that needs to be done to feed BHS students while the cafeteria/commons area is being rebuilt through the end of the year.

Besides the kitchen, interior and exterior work is being done at South, including a new parking lot, sidewalks, ADA curbs, interior corridor, windows, new entrance doors, and ceilings.

The work at South is expected to be substantially completed by Aug. 15.

Director of Buildings and Grounds James Williams announced the Facility Usage Plan Update, which lists four different categories of users and the different fees for using the new facilities. This will be posted on the district website.

Williams said he set up a committee to help with the plan for using the new school facilities and they contacted other districts to see how they did it. Supt. Van Tassel and his designee have the power to set up the plan and tweak it, as needed.

The categories of those who can use the building range from school and school-related groups, to community organizations who do not charge admission, community groups that charge admission, and organizations not located in the community/commercial ventures.

In other business at Monday's meeting, the School Board:

- Approved a one-year contract for Kelleen Villa as principal of Savage Elementary School at a salary of \$86,873, plus fringes. Villa has been employed by the district since 1996 as an elementary teacher;
- Approved a one-year contract for

(continued on page 18)

# RE-ELECT PEGGY MORGAN FOR SUMPTER TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE!



## Re-Elect **Peggy Morgan** Sumpter Township Trustee

**ENDORSEMENTS:** Sumpter Democratic Caucus Club, Southwestern Wayne Democratic Club, Kevin McNamara, and (in past) Region 1A UAW

**Member of MEA**  
(Michigan Education Association)

- \*Balanced Budget for 8 Years!
- \*Township Liaison to Parks and Rec & Fire Department!
- \*Improvements to PNA Hall (including Parking Lot)!
- \*"Reduced Speed Limit" Signs for School Zones @ Elwell, Keystone, and Bessie Hoffman Schools!
- \*Stop Light @ Bemis & Rawsonville Roads!
- \*Helped bring in Over \$300,000.00 in Grant Money (at no cost to residents) to Improve Township Owned Parks!

Paid for by the CTE Peggy Morgan, 46300 Claxton Dr., Belleville, MI 48111

**- Elect -**

## Johnny Vawters' Team

*Voices for the People*  
**DEMOCRATS!**

**Johnny Vawters**, Supervisor  
**Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr.**, Clerk  
**John W. Morgan**, Treasurer  
**Alan D. Bates**, Trustee  
**Bill Hamm**, Trustee  
**Peggy Morgan**, Trustee  
**Don Swinson**, Trustee

**VOTE:  
AUGUST 7**

1. Reduced Speed Limits on some Gravel Roads (from 55 to 35 mph)
2. Early Warning Sirens Throughout Sumpter
3. Re-negotiated contract w/ Republic Waste for each Resident to receive a Waste Receptacle.
4. Services such as Senior Grass Cutting and Snow Plowing
5. New Street Lights Installed at Judd/Rawsonville Roads, Bemis/Lohr Roads, and at Willis/Wilmet Roads

# PROVEN LEADERSHIP, EXPERIENCE PLUS UNITY PRODUCES PROGRESS!



## Re-Elect **Alan D. Bates** Sumpter Township Trustee

**VOTE:  
AUGUST 7**

1. Water Department Liaison.
2. Served on library commissions.
3. Helped create and maintain channel 12 and the Township website.



4. Member of Parks and Recreation Commission.
5. Member of Sumpter Seniors
6. Member of Sumpter Progressive League.

**ENDORSED BY:**

**15th Democratic District, UAW Region 1A, Southwestern Wayne Democratic Club, Sumpter Democratic Caucus Club**

Paid for: Committee to Re-Elect Alan D. Bates, 17469 Odyssey, Belleville, MI 48111

**- Elect -**

## Johnny Vawters' Team

*Voices for the People*  
**DEMOCRATS!**

**Johnny Vawters**, Supervisor  
**Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr.**, Clerk  
**John W. Morgan**, Treasurer  
**Alan D. Bates**, Trustee  
**Bill Hamm**, Trustee  
**Peggy Morgan**, Trustee  
**Don Swinson**, Trustee

**VOTE:  
AUGUST 7**

1. Balanced the budget with minimum layoffs.
2. Merged dispatch with Huron Township to reduce costs.
3. Contracted with Republic Services to improve rubbish pick-up.
4. Have made major improvements to Banotai and Graham parks.
5. Started program to help citizens with the FEMA flood insurance problem.
6. Passed ordinance to protect citizens from synthetic marijuana and other dangerous products.



# School Board

(continued from page 17)

Rebecca Smith as assistant principal at South Intermediate School (formerly South Middle School) at a salary of \$90,119, plus fringes. Smith has been employed by the district since 1996 as an elementary teacher at Savage;

- Recalled eight more teachers from layoff: Heather Bell, NMS; Mark Darket, BHS; Kimberly Glime, Art; Chelsee Harris, BHS; Andrew Hartman, BHS; Marcus Hosman, BHS; Kristy Hickson, Art; and Michael Koebbe, BHS;

- Hired John-Raul Buison and Sylvia Camarena to teach Spanish at BHS, and Jonathon Richards as a media specialist at SMS;

- Approved the requested retirements of Karen White-Twigg, after 38 years of teaching, and Rowena Zimmerman, after 28 years of teaching; the resignation of Susan Fleming, Haggerty Principal, for other employment; and Karen Dewulf of NMS for personal reasons;

- Approved the termination of Nancy Stoddart, whose 10-year, part-time job as NMS secretary was eliminated; and Michelle Kovach, technology specialist for five years, who left for other employment;

- Approved spending \$31,154 out of the Errors and Omissions contingency bond line item to reconfigure the exhaust fans from the rest rooms in the new BHS classroom towers for more efficient operation. "It's always good to have good toilet exhaust," commended Board Trustee Sherry Frazier;

- Approved spending \$112,484.89 out of bond funds for new equipment for Green Initiative maintenance of the high school building and athletics fields, plus athletic boards to hold records for track/field and swimming; and

- Reviewed the Bullying Policy, which the board passed in February as required by the state. Director of Human Resources Shonta Langford-Green said the policy has been sent out to all buildings and administrators will be trained in how to recognize bullying and write up the necessary reports. Every July there will be a report to the board on verifiable bullying. Green said so far this year there have been three bullying reports, but they were not properly documented and thus not verifiable.

★ **TIME FOR** ★  
★ **A CHANGE!** ★



**JOHN HERMAN**  
For Van Buren Township Treasurer  
**VOTE ON AUGUST 7, 2012**

Paid for by Citizens for John Herman for Treasurer, 6329 Greenwood Ct., Belleville, MI 48111



\*HONEST\* \*SINCERE\*

\*DEDICATED\*

**PLEASE—Don't Forget To Vote on**

**Tuesday, August 7, 2012!!!!**

**ELECT JOHNNY VAWTERS' TEAM  
VOICES FOR THE PEOPLE • DEMOCRATS**

**VAWTERS**  
**SUPERVISOR**

**HOFFMAN JR. J. MORGAN**  
**CLERK TREASURER**

**SWINSON BATES**  
**P. MORGAN HAMM**  
**TRUSTEES**

PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT JOHNNY VAWTERS, P.O. BOX 134, BELLEVILLE, MI 48112-0134



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 Psalm 33:12a  
**If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.**  
 2 Chronicles 7:14



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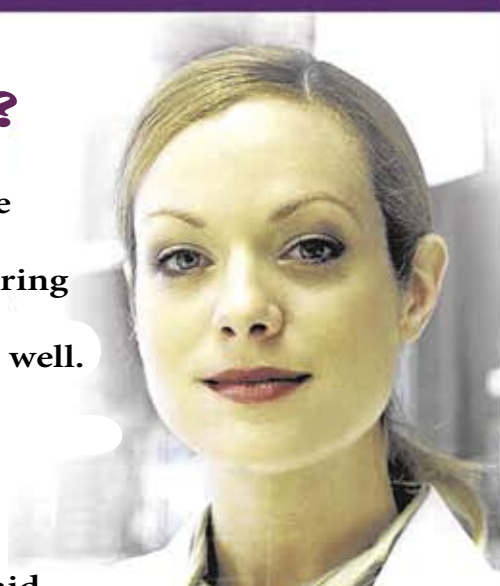
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- \* Baby
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- \* Swan Creek Candles
- \* Country Home Creations Dip Mixes
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- \* Music Boxes
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 Closed Sunday & Monday



\*LIMIT 1 PER VISIT.



**VOTE FOR**  
**LARRY J. FIX**  
 SUPERVISOR, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP  
**AUGUST 7, 2012**

Van Buren Township, is our community better off now than it was four years ago? We need a Supervisor who is ready to face the challenges and issues and not ignore them or our citizens!

Grace Lake bond debt is not going away!

FEMA imposed flood plane will devastate our property values!

62% increase in home invasion crimes will not be diminished by using patrol officers as revenue collectors!

Property owners are being ignored along with our Master Plans while a potential toxic co-gen facility is planned for the northeast end of VBT!

**NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE BACK OUR COMMUNITY!**

We need a problem solver with a vision and hope for our community.

**VOTE FOR UNITY AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup>**



## Installation of Belleville's LED street lighting starts July 30

The Belleville Downtown Development Authority (DDA) announces the installation of new LED street lighting in downtown Belleville beginning the week of July 30.

Airport Lighting will be on site for about two weeks to install the new LED lights along Main Street and South Street, at Horizon Park and Doane's Landing.

The installation work will occupy the parking lane and sidewalk next to each light pole, and move from pole to pole. No streets will be closed, and customers will have access to all businesses in the downtown, said DDA Coordinator Carol Thompson in a news release on Friday.

Based on community responses during the LED Lighting Demonstration project this past spring, Airport Lighting was awarded the LED lighting contract. They

will retrofit the downtown vintage street lights with the more energy-efficient LED lighting to reduce energy and maintenance costs.

The DDA has applied to DTE's Energy Saving Program, and received conditional approval for an incentive rebate.

## VBT Police: Avoid Ecorse Road ramp to SB I-275 until Oct. 4

Van Buren Township Police advise motorists to avoid the Ecorse Road ramp

to Southbound I-275 for the next three months due to bridge rehabilitation.

The Michigan Department of Transportation estimates the construction project will be done by Oct. 4.

Police advise motorists to make plans for an alternate route.

## Columbia Court Apartments

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A Senior Facility of National Church Residences  
Affordable Housing • Sec 8-202

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## Diane Madigan for Van Buren Township Trustee



Paid for by CTE Diane Madigan  
16163 Bak • Belleville, Michigan 48111

### My Goals as Trustee are:

- ◆ To support businesses that will better serve the community both now and in the future.
- ◆ As an animal advocate, to represent you in preserving your rights to responsible animal ownership.
- ◆ As an independent thinker, to thoroughly and thoughtfully research every topic brought before the Board of Trustees.
- ◆ To support the hiring of additional patrol police officers and fire fighters to obtain a 2010 level of service.
- ◆ To insist on accountability and responsibility in providing services.
- ◆ To remain a source of support and information to the residents.
- ◆ To put the SERVICE back into Public Service.

Any questions, comments or wishes of support: please contact me at  
DianeMadiganVBT@aol.com or 734-699-9207.



# VOTE August 7th





# BELIEVE IN BELLEVILLE

Shop & Dine Downtown.  
Support Local Businesses



## SUMMER FAMILY FUN!

ARTAFFAIR ON MAIN, ARTS, ANTIQUES, MUSIC AND EATS, JULY 28-29

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# BYC urges area leaders to address Eurasian Water-Milfoil in lake

Scott Jones, Commodore of a local boaters' club

called BYC, issued a call on Friday urging elected and appointed area officials to promptly address the Eurasian Water-Milfoil found in Belleville Lake.

In a news release to local media, Jones said, left unchecked, this invasive aquatic plant has damaged eco-systems and local economies throughout North America

and threatens Belleville Lake.

He said Belleville-area residents have identified Eurasian Water-Milfoil in the west end of Belleville Lake, near the DNR Boat Launch on Rawsonville Road.

"The BYC is urging local and state leaders to address this issue for the good of our community," Jones said in the news release.

Eurasian Water-Milfoil is an invasive species of aquatic plant that when left unchecked creates a canopy of floating foliage, according to information cited from the USDA.

Its dense canopies shade native vegetation altering the ecosystem to the point of impairing the ability of some fish to spawn. This aggressive aquatic plant has been documented to disrupt the life cycle of native plants and fish and to hinder water recreation activities.

The resulting loss of the lake system has caused financial hardships to economies throughout North America due to a reduction in the area's recreational activity, according to information cited from the Michigan Sea Grant College Program and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The infestation of Eurasian Water-Milfoil is not a boater's issue; it is a community issue affecting the lives of everyone who lives in the Belleville area, Jones said.

Public awareness and early detection of Eurasian Water-Milfoil is critical in stopping the plant from becoming a widespread problem. The best chance to halt this non-native invader is when it first appears.

Eurasian Water-Milfoil can grow in a variety of aquatic habitats, but prefers fertile, fine-textured inorganic sediments similar to Belleville Lake.

It is an opportunistic species that invades disturbed lake beds, recreational waterways and slow-moving streams.

Unlike many other plants, Eurasian Water-Milfoil does not rely on seed for reproduction. It reproduces by fragmentations when shoots are carried downstream or inadvertently moved by humans.

Mechanical harvesters have been used to address Eurasian Water-Milfoil but to be effective, all fragments must be removed from the site due to the plants ability to reproduce by fragmentation.

Treatment with the chemical Fluridone ®, a selective aquatic herbicide, is one technique that has been employed for control in numerous Michigan Lakes.

More recently, a biological treatment using a weevil native to North America is showing promise in Lake St. Helen and Lake Ovid at Sleepy Hollow State Park.

The BYC recommends ways to prevent its spread:

- Homeowners with water gardens within watersheds should consider the possibility and prevention of their garden contaminating adjacent aquatic environments.

- Boaters should always remove plant material from their boats and boat trailers.

- Boaters should drain live wells and bilge water before leaving the boat access area.

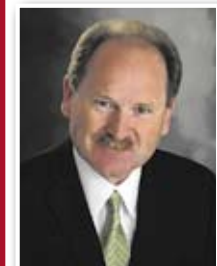
- Communities should deploy a watershed management program to prevent nutrients from reaching lakes and stimulating milfoil colonies from water runoff.

"The BYC urges our elected and appointed area officials to address this issue promptly," Jones said. "The issue of Eurasian Water-Milfoil is not just a boaters issue, it is a community issue!"

The news release included a petition labeled BYC Support for Milfoil Action, with 44 signatures.

## Re-elect Phillip C. HART | Van Buren Township Trustee

On Election Day August 7th, Make the **Right Choice:** Vote for **Phillip C. HART**



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- ✓ Experienced - Local Legislative and Business Management.
- ✓ Education - B.B.A. Degree Business Management and Commerce.
- ✓ Honesty and Integrity - Holds and displays to the Highest Level.
- ✓ Leadership - Proven Leadership and Teamwork in resolving issues.

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- Former Board representative to the Board of Zoning Appeals, Cable and Environmental Commissions and Lake Committee. Member of Michigan Townships Association and Governance Academy.
- Experience with Forward Planning, Grants, Alternative Funding, Balanced Budgets, Investments, Preserving History, Collaboration with Local, County & State Officials.
- Supports Senior Center program funding.
- Supports Cultural and Recreational Programs for all ages.
- Public Safety: Proponent of Police / Fire initiatives to improve Public Safety.
- Member of the Belleville Chamber of Commerce.
- Employer: Ford Motor Company - New Model Programs Launch Management. (Manage Launch Engineers, Budgets and Global suppliers).
- Married to Karen for 27 Years, we have two Daughters both Graduates of BHS and Eastern Michigan University. Member of St. Anthony Church.

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- ✓ Practicing attorney with municipal law experience
- ✓ Graduate Belleville High School, University of Michigan B.A. & J.D.
- ✓ Reputation for honesty and integrity

PAID FOR BY CITIZENS FOR JEFFREY JAHR - 45281 HARMONY LANE, BELLEVILLE, MI 48111



# Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

*The following are selected runs for VBT Police.*  
For more detailed police logs, see [www.bellevilleareaindependent.com](http://www.bellevilleareaindependent.com) .

**Sunday, July 15:**  
0823 – fraud, 13079 Cumberland Ct.  
0857 – larceny, 12918 Lake Pointe Pass  
0905 – malicious destruction of property, 9929 Fairbanks St.  
0919 – property damage accident, Savage/Country Walk Blvd.  
1455 – disorderly conduct, Van Buren Park  
1613 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.  
1813 – ATV/ORV complaint, 600 Sumpter  
1842 – property damage accident, Belleville / Meijer  
1904 – larceny, Cape Condo dock  
2104 – juvenile complaint, 8986 Parkwood Dr.  
2107 – intimidation threat, 9562 Madison Dr.  
2120 – assault & battery, Walmart  
2157 – disturbance, 45707 S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2210 – private property accident, Twisted Rooster  
2241 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Robbe  
2243 – malicious destruction of property, 7246 Fay  
2306 – ATV/ORV complaint, 47550 Bemis Rd.  
2340 – narcotics crime, 41470 E. Archwood Dr.  
2353 – noise complaint, 42 Park Estates  
2353 – noise complaint, 10702 Oak Ln.

**Monday, July 16:**  
0020 – operating while intoxicated, 10930 Belleville  
0035 – noise complaint, 8988 Parkwood Dr.  
1500 – larceny, 40000 Ricardo Dr.  
1546 – breaking & entering, 9769 Van Buren St.  
1743 – malicious destruction of property, 6870 Sadie Lane  
1758 – harassment call, 8904 Parkwood Dr.  
1911 – larceny from auto, 41430 S. Bellridge Dr.  
2109 – malicious destruction of property, 11086 Oak Ln.

**Tuesday, July 17:**  
0006 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 48521 S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0202 – overdose, 51094 Landmark  
0204 – disturbance, 12692 Hannan Rd.  
0247 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Haggerty  
1231 – suicide or attempt, 42901 Tyler Rd.  
1312 – hospice, 6260 Washington  
1352 – malicious destruction of property, 11829 Meadows Cir.  
1524 – larceny, Walmart  
1645 – property damage accident, 41775 Ecorse  
1711 – harassment call, 41480 W. Archwood Dr.  
1712 – animal bite, 112 Peachtree  
1733 – malicious destruction of property, 10850 Lighthouse Dr.  
1736 – private property accident, Walmart  
1820 – harassment call, Hidden Cove  
1858 – ATV/ORV complaint, Lohr Rd./Martz Rd.  
1932 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 8907 Parkwood  
1934 – malicious destruction of property, 45070 Bemis Rd.  
2003 – retail fraud, Kmart  
2147 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Denton

**Wednesday, July 18:**  
0128 – larceny, 38 Maple Dr.  
0823 – malicious destruction of property, 41001 E. Huron River Dr.  
1304 – trespassing, 43774 Bemis Rd.  
1415 – dumping complaint, Van Born/Belleville  
1842 – ATV/ORV complaint, 6980 Sadie Ln.  
2034 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 49000 Denton  
2353 – larceny, 18 Birch Dr.

**Thursday, July 19:**  
0638 – property damage accident, Van Born / Haggerty  
1109 – property damage accident, Van Born / Haggerty  
1112 – property damage accident, Belleville/I-94  
1133 – property damage accident, Meijer  
1318 – disturbance, 10960 Lighthouse  
1355 – assault & battery, 6663 Rogers Ave.  
1433 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Hannan  
1526 – suspicious person, Meijer

1530 – personal injury accident, Rawsonville / Martz  
1535 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 6 Brandi  
1536 – intimidation threat, 6515 Outer Dr.  
1556 – private property accident, 46425 Tyler  
1724 – mental, 11599 Meadows Ct.  
1752 – assault & battery, 3375 E. Michigan  
1910 – narcotics crime, Meijer gas  
2015 – fireworks, 10943 Buchanan  
2046 – harassment call, 41536 Coolidge St.  
2052 – disturbance, 8833 Parkwood Dr.  
2055 – larceny, 41001 E. Huron River Dr.  
2253 – private property accident, 42350 Van Born  
2359 – ATV/ORV complaint, Martinsville/Fret

**Friday, July 20:**  
0024 – disorderly conduct, 6578 Outer Dr.  
0113 – assault & battery, 15615 Martinsville  
0113 – fight, 87 Maple Dr.  
0347 – disturbance, Ecorse/Belleville  
1119 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1235 – trespassing, Ecorse/Haggerty  
1243 – personal injury accident, EB I-94/Belleville  
1327 – dumping complaint, 13410 Lenmoore  
1412 – private property accident, 41222 N. Woodbury Dr.  
1501 – larceny, 43646 N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1755 – narcotics crime, 8701 Belleville Rd.  
1948 – larceny, 42901 Tyler Rd.  
2005 – disturbance, 5922 Winchester St.  
2141 – intimidation threat, 15505 Hoeft Rd.  
2215 – assault & battery, 39 Maple  
2240 – breaking & entering, 10060 Clayton Rd.

**Saturday, July 21:**  
0044 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Water’s Edge  
0128 – fight, 42697 Alba Ct.  
0228 – disturbance, Meijer  
0236 – fight, 11875 Quirk Rd.  
0238 – larceny, Walmart  
0405 – suicide or attempt, 6219 Truman  
0425 – assault & battery, 44365 Harmony Ln.  
1147 – private property accident, 42672 Tavistock  
1208 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Alden Ave.

1419 – lake complaint, Belleville Lake  
1446 – property damage accident, Belleville/Quirk  
1510 – fight, 10276 Belleville Rd.  
1527 – fraud, 13203 Westlake Cir.  
1712 – assault & battery, 10955 Buchanan St.  
1717 – suicide or attempt, Meijer  
1734 – assault & battery, 46171 Village Green Ln.  
1826 – narcotics crime, 46080 Lake Villa Dr.  
1926 – disturbance, Haggerty/E. Huron River Dr.  
2046 – property damage accident, Quirk/Tyler  
2057 – larceny, Meijer  
2116 – felony assault, EB I-94 / Haggerty  
2116 – noise complaint, 7581 Kirkridge Park Dr.  
2150 – disturbance, 37 Maple  
2230 – noise complaint, 47216 Harbour Pte. Ct.  
2234 – noise complaint, 46020 Lake Villa Dr.  
2239 – disturbance, 44905 Lindsey Dr.  
2245 – property damage accident, Haggerty/S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2247 – assault & battery, 17104 Westlake  
2251 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Bemis  
2313 – disturbance, 39 Maple

Also on this week’s log are 305 traffic stops, 77 of which were on the freeways: I-95 and I-275.

## Belleville Police Dispatch Log

**Sunday, July 15:**  
0223 – suspicious person, 404 Main, Bayou  
1337 – property damage, 575 Sumpter, Co-op apts.  
1626 – larceny, 145 Menlo Park Dr.  
1636 – larceny, 46 Loza Lane  
1657 – larceny, 6 Menlo Park Dr.  
1832 – animal complaint, Sam’s Place  
2005 – welfare check, 160 Church St.

**Monday, July 16:**  
1331 – trespassing, 42 Carmell St.  
1344 – larceny, 541 E. Huron River Dr.  
1433 – larceny, 220 N. Aberdeen Ct.  
1626 – assist fire dept., 416 Sumpter Rd.  
1657 – PPO violation, 6 Main St.  
1839 – follow-up, 130 S. Edgemont Ave.  
1859 – disorderly conduct, 265 Main St.  
1916 – disorderly conduct, 265 Main St.

1955 – assault & battery, 459 Victorian Ln.  
2022 – suspicious situation, BHS  
2147 – property check, Third St./Main St.  
2154 – P.b.t. alcohol, 6 Main St.  
2228 – missing person, 201 Belle Villa Blvd.  
2328 – disorderly conduct, 203 Belle Villa

**Tuesday, July 17:**  
0012 – agency assist, 48521 S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0106 – assist fire dept., 220 Henry St.  
0109 – juvenile complaint, 176 W. Columbia Ave.  
0348 – follow-up, 15569 Elwell  
0512 – suspicious person, 291 W. Columbia Ave.  
0628 – suspicious situation, BHS  
0855 – assist fire dept., 25 Owen  
1246 – juvenile complaint, 337 S. Industrial Pk.  
1305 – intrusion alarm, BHS  
1441 – assist fire dept., 8 Carmell St.  
1554 – suspicious situation, 338 N. Liberty St.  
1824 – overdose, 24 San Carlos St.  
2050 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.  
2119 – intrusion alarm, 871 Sumpter Rd.  
2122 – civil matter, 6 Santa Clara St.

**Wednesday, July 18:**  
0006 – suspicious vehicle, Industrial Park Dr. / Sumpter Rd.  
0252 – suspicious situation, 131 Carmell St.  
0312 – assist fire dept., 144 Carmell St.  
1123 – assist citizen, 6 Main St.  
1328 – assist citizen, 6 Main St.  
1617 – malicious destruction of property, 413 Harbour Pointe Dr.  
1828 – suspicious person, 291 Victorian Ln.  
1846 – assist fire dept., 247 Church St.  
2003 – information, 192 Belle Villa Blvd.  
2325 – suspicious person, Main/Third

**Thursday, July 19:**  
0635 – suspicious person, Brain St./High St.  
1121 – narcotics crime, 271 Henry St.  
1228 – assist fire dept., 324 Oxford Ct.  
1243 – juvenile complaint, 59 Loza Ln.  
1735 – assist fire dept., 46 Loza Ln.  
1947 – operating while intoxicated, Savage / Sheldon  
**Friday, July 20:**  
1002 – suspicious vehicle, 506 Harbour Pointe Dr.  
1201 – larceny from auto, 31 E. Huron River Dr.  
1425 – mental, 6 Main St.  
1521 – E-911 hangup/investigation, 429 Victorian Ln.

1855 – property check, 58 Wexford Ave.  
2029 – serve warrant, 374 W. Columbia Ave.  
2039 – serve warrant, 525 Harbour Pointe Dr.  
2048 – serve warrant, 32 N. Liberty St.  
2055 – serve warrant, 75 N. Edgemont Ave.  
2112 – follow-up, 130 S. Edgemont Ave.

**Saturday, July 21:**  
0026 – all other traffic, N. Liberty St./Main St.  
0138 – narcotics crime, 146 High St., Johnny’s  
0315 – suspicious situation, 176 W. Columbia  
0340 – assist fire dept., 140 Biggs Ave.  
0414 – agency assist, 6219 Truman  
0427 – suspicious person, W. Columbia/High  
0827 – animal complaint, 57 N. Biggs Ave.  
0828 – follow-up, 140 N. Biggs  
0933 – malicious destruction of property, 394 Harbour Pointe Dr.

1741 – fight, 47850 North Shore  
1836 – animal complaint, N. Edgemont/Potter Dr.  
1927 – suspicious person, High St./Main St.  
2015 – serve warrant, 75 N. Edgemont  
2043 – serve warrant, 59 Loza Ln.  
2310 – lost property, 201 Victorian Ln.  
2313 – noise complaint, 19 Loza Ln.  
2341 – traffic complaint, 464 E. Waterbury Ct.

Also on this week’s log are 20 traffic stops.

## Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

**Sunday, July 15:**  
0003 – family trouble, 45000 bl. Wear Rd.  
0203 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.  
0850 – traffic hazard, Sherwood/Wear  
1352 – warrant arrest, out of township  
1527 – citizen assist, 20000 bl. Haggerty  
2000 – warrant arrest, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2038 – threats complaint, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.  
2055 – noise complaint, Rustic Ln.  
2059 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
2244 – assist other agency, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.

**Monday, July 16:**  
1008 – disorderly person, Sherwood/Wear  
1013 – neighbor dispute, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1031 – larceny report, 17000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
1422 – abandoned vehicle, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1428 – disorderly person, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd  
1515 – larceny report, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1559 – alarm, 6000 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.  
1829 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.  
1851 – fire dept. assist, Dakota  
1952 – civil dispute, 17000 bl. Martinville Rd.  
2038 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.  
2055 – larceny report, 17000 bl. Martha’s Ln.  
2128 – family trouble, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.  
2224 – ORV complaint, 28000 bl. Martinsville Rd

**Tuesday, July 17:**  
0019 – family trouble, 45000 bl. Victoria Ave.  
0533 – suspicious vehicle, Oakville Waltz / Sherwood  
0931 – suspicious incident, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1032 – suspicious person, Judd/Sumpter  
1140 – alarm, 37000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1209 – civil dispute, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.  
1406 – fraud report, Washington  
1439 – larceny report, 45000 bl. Bontekoe  
1453 – warrant arrest, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1507 – alarm, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
1520 – 911 hangup investigation, 44000 bl. Harris  
1615 – well-being check, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1720 – animal complaint, 6400 bl. Oakville Waltz  
1844 – assault, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
2219 – 911 hangup investigation, 48000 bl. Willis

**Wednesday, July 18:**  
0017 – malicious destruction of property, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

0113 – warrant arrest, out of township  
0144 – assist other agency, Bemis/Sumpter  
0306 – assist other agency, 10000 bl. Liss Rd.  
0408 – suspicious person, Willow/Sherwood  
0702 – property damage accident, Clark/Huron  
0943 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1308 – ORV complaint, Sumpter/Willis  
1349 – personal injury accident, Sumpter/Willis  
1427 – civil dispute, 17000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
1512 – abandoned vehicle, Rawsonville/Willis  
1712 – larceny report, Washington  
1714 – suspicious incident, 50000 bl. Willis  
1842 – larceny report, Montana  
2006 – assault, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
2039 – disorderly person, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
2105 – ORV complaint, 17000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
2118 – suspicious person, 46000 bl. Harris Rd.  
2132 – disorderly person, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.  
2307 – threats complaint, 17000 bl. Martinsville

**Thursday, July 19:**  
0017 – assist other agency, 10000 bl. Liss Rd.  
0622 – fire dept. assist, Knollwood  
0739 – animal complaint, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.  
0902 – death investigation, 40000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1045 – fraud report, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1222 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1314 – fraud report, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1328 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1749 – suspicious incident, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.  
1908 – citizen assist, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
1929 – threats complaint, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.  
2144 – suspicious incident, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.  
2314 – threats complaint, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.

**Friday, July 20:**  
0138 – family trouble, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
0210 – warrant arrest, out of township  
0312 – larceny report, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
1116 – alarm, 6000 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.  
1325 – well-being check, Rustic Ln.  
1438 – malicious destruction of property, 39000 bl. Willis  
1840 – suspicious vehicle, 49000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
2116 – assault, Carriage Lane

**Saturday, July 21:**  
0042 – noise complaint, Carriage Ln.  
0419 – suspicious vehicle, Karr/Oakville Waltz  
0536 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1331 – civil dispute, 17000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
1542 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
1550 – assist other agency, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1707 – assist other agency, 5600 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.

1923 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1953 – neighbor dispute, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2101 – citizen assist, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.  
2113 – assault, Stonecrest  
2142 – threats complaint, 17000 bl. Martinsville  
Also on this week’s log are 15 follow-up investigations, 27 miscellaneous details, 136 patrol checks, and 44 traffic stops.

# Sumpter Township Sample Ballot

PARTISAN SECTION - CONTINUE		PROPOSAL SECTION CONTINUED	
VOTE ONLY 1 PARTY SECTION		COUNTY	
REPUBLICAN PARTY SECTION	DEMOCRATIC PARTY SECTION	PROPOSITION J	
COUNTY	COUNTY	JAILS MILLAGE RENEWAL	
COUNTY COMMISSIONER 11th DISTRICT Vote for not more than 1	COUNTY COMMISSIONER 11th DISTRICT Vote for not more than 1	To renew the millage authorized in 2002, shall Wayne County be authorized to continue to levy this millage at the 2011 rollback rate of .9381 mills (about 94 cents per thousand dollars of taxable valuation) for ten more years (2012 through 2021) for any of the following previously authorized uses:	
Robert Stano	Kevin M. McNamara	To acquire, construct, and/or operate jail, misdemeanor, or juvenile incarceration or detention facilities, and for adult penalty options such as work release, home detention and community restitution; with at least one-tenth of the millage used to acquire, build and operate a juvenile offender work/training institution? This renewal is estimated to generate at least \$38,859,493 in property tax revenue in 2012.	
TOWNSHIP	TOWNSHIP	YES	
SUPERVISOR Vote for not more than 1	SUPERVISOR Vote for not more than 1	NO	
	Johnny Vawters		
	Vincent E. Warren		
CLERK Vote for not more than 1	CLERK Vote for not more than 1		
	Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr.		
TREASURER Vote for not more than 1	TREASURER Vote for not more than 1		
	Andrea Chamberlain		
	John W. Morgan		
TRUSTEE Vote for not more than 4	TRUSTEE Vote for not more than 4		
	Alan D. Bates		
	James Clark		
	Bill Hamm		
	Martin R. Kalasz		
	Peggy Morgan		
	Don Swinson		
DELEGATE	DELEGATE		
DELEGATE TO COUNTY CONVENTION Vote for not more than 7	DELEGATE TO COUNTY CONVENTION Vote for not more than 6		
	Johnny Vawters		

**Pick a political party and stick with it while voting your Primary Ballot.**

This is a Primary Ballot, so voters must vote either in the Republican OR Democratic section of the ballot. There can be no crossover voting on the Primary Ballot or the vote will be thrown out.

**If you make a mistake, let the clerk or election worker know. They may be able to give you a new ballot, so you can start over.**

But, any non-partisan votes on a ballot ruined by crossover voting will still be counted, according to VBT Deputy Clerk Kathy Cline.



# VOTERS GUIDE FOR AUG. 7 PRIMARY ELECTION SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION

(Madigan continued)

Senior programs.”

Madigan also supports emergency / tornado sirens, cooperating with the Tri-Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and would promote free Nixel messages for severe weather, safety, and road closure alerts, along with Public Safety seasonal advisories on the web and cable on open fire precautions, fireworks, and severe weather alerts. She also supports a public Recognition Program for all township employees that would honor outstanding performance.

## Brenda L. McClanahan

Brenda McClanahan of 42783 Tavistock, is running for a trustee seat on the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees. She presently is vice president of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education and indicated she will not be running for re-election this November. She was elected to the school board in 2008.

She is married to VBT Director of Public Safety Carl McClanahan; they moved to VBT in 2001. She has one daughter Dr. Ayana Wilson who practices at Palmetto Health Baptist Hospital in Columbia, S.C. Dr. Wilson and her husband Michael have given McClanahan two beloved grandchildren.

McClanahan retired from the Detroit Police Department with the rank of sergeant after 20 years of service, 1986-2006. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business from the University of Phoenix and a Master of Science degree in Administration from Central Michigan University. She is an adjunct lecturer on Organizational Finance at Saginaw Valley State University.

She was appointed to serve on the VBT Public Safety Committee in 2008.

She is a member of alumni groups from the University of Phoenix and CMU, as well as a retiree member of Detroit Police Officer's Association and Lieutenant and Sergeants Association.

McClanahan said she decided to run for trustee because, “I have always enjoyed public service and I thoroughly believe that service to the public is a privilege and not an entitlement. I taught in the Van Buren Public School District as a substitute teacher after my retirement.

“In addition, I instruct graduate level students at Saginaw Valley State University in ‘Organizational Finance.’ My perspective is that the individual must be humble enough to realize that there is little that he/she can do alone. Becoming a candidate for a board of trustee's position is becoming part of the ‘team’.”

As far as goals once elected, McClanahan said, “Given the state of the world and US economy over the past five years there is absolutely no way to determine, project, or forecast what goals an elected body will be able to accomplish in an increasing dynamic economic, and political environment over the next four years.

“Elected officials can only hope that working together as a legislative body in a collaborative and civil environment will produce the best results possible,” she said.

## Regina L. Miller

Reggie Miller of 13697 Pond Bluff Drive, is running for a trustee position. She is married with two children.

She moved to the City of Belleville in 1996 then moved to VBT and has lived in the township 11 years.

Miller is part-time self-employed with a courier/messenger service.

She earned her bachelor's degree in Business

Administration from Cleary University, Ann Arbor, majoring in marketing and graduating *summa cum laude*.

She also holds an associate's degree with a double major in marketing and communications from Purdue University North Central, Indiana.

She is a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in VBT.

Miller was elected to three consecutive terms as vice chairperson of the Victoria Commons Homeowners Association.

She said she moved to Belleville in 1996 when her family was transferred from Atlanta. “I immediately hit the ground running” and joined or volunteered for: Victoria Commons Homeowners Association; National Strawberry Festival, where she served as volunteer and former executive director; one term on the Belleville Downtown Development Authority; and Trinity Episcopal Church volunteer.

She is actively involved in Country Pond Estates and serves as Zone Captain; was a reading volunteer at Savage Elementary School; served three years on the school's Health Advisory Committee; was appointed to the VBT Public Safety Committee in 2009 and currently is vice chairperson; and is a member of alumni groups for Purdue and Cleary.

Miller said she is running for office because, “I believe that our community is in need of a ‘renewed vision’ that will preserve, promote and protect Van Buren Township.”

Miller said her goals include using common sense and good judgment, developing a plan for moving the community forward, supporting the hiring of fire fighters and police officers, working with other elected officials, and insisting on accountability and responsibility.

She said she will donate one year of her salary over her term back to the community, offering the proceeds to the schools, arts council and VBT parks and recreation. She also will waive any health insurance benefits which will save the taxpayers thousands of dollars over her term of office.

## Angela R. Netro

Angela Netro, age 63, of 12860 Lake Pointe Pass, is running for trustee.

She has lived in VBT for 60 years and has two sons, Anthony and Phillip.

Netro is a Real Estate Broker-Owner and, until she filed for office, wrote *Ask Angela*, a column that ran in the *Independent* to help people having Real Estate questions.

She is a high school graduate with a year and a half of college.

She ran for office in the UAW at the Ford Rawsonville Plant and was elected UAW union representative and recording secretary of International UAW Women's Committee.

Netro was appointed to the VBT Board of Review seven years ago and continues to serve.

She is a 26-year member of the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, and member of Lions Club International, Women of the Moose International, and Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club.

She enjoys boating, walking her dog, reading, bowling, and classic old movies.

Netro said she is running for office to use her knowledge of Van Buren and work hard to help the residents when issues arise that need to be addressed.



“I have heard from residents for many years that their complaints were ignored or never checked out. I want to help! I feel that I can accomplish anything with hard work, education, and persistence.

Her goal once elected? “I'd like to have Van Buren Township acknowledged as a separate community with a separate zip code. I would love to have a dog park for Van Buren residents located in the Van Buren Township Park at I-94 near Rawsonville. I would mostly want the Board of Trustees to work as a ‘Team’ to accomplish issues important to the community and residents with professionalism and leave the politics to elections.”

## Howard Daniel Wright

Dan Wright, age 36, of 52 W. Spencer, a lifelong area resident, is seeking the position of trustee, his first try for elective office.

He lives with his wife Jennifer and son Charlie, aged 3 1/2. He and Jennifer have been together since their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year in high school and graduated from Belleville High in 1994.

Jennifer has worked in the parks department since the age of 15 and currently is the Director of Van Buren Parks and Recreation.

Dan Wright is an educator at North Middle School and over the past ten years has been active as a football and basketball coach.

Wright earned his bachelor of science degree with a major in English and minor in Sociology with a professional teaching certificate from Eastern Michigan University. He earned his master's in Speech and Communication from EMU and has a master's degree in Reading Literacy from Marygrove College.

“I am seeking office because I want to help shape the future of the community. I feel that I am passionate enough to care and intelligent enough to remain objective on all issues.

“I will represent the community with integrity and pride. I have lived in this area for all of my 36 years. After graduating from Eastern, I made a decision to reside and begin my career in Van Buren Township. Now, I am looking to the future and I want to be part of making this a community that my son will want to raise his family.”

Wright said, “I am a firm believer that communication between the seven members is the only way that we can serve the community effectively. We must work cohesively to be efficient. I feel that a leader should want people around him/her that are willing to engage in dialogue and view all perspectives until a reasonable compromise can be achieved.

“I will always speak my mind respectfully to all members of the board. I will challenge ideas that need to be challenged and look for attainable outcomes. I will not ‘just go with the flow’. I will not have an allegiance with any one person. I will encourage our leader to be open and willing to have conversations.”

Wright said he feels there are three significant areas that make a community successful and prideful.

“To begin, I feel that Public Safety is the most important aspect in a community. We have to have police officers on the street and fire personnel ready to respond. I understand there are budgetary concerns; Public Safety must be our number one priority.

“Secondly, I feel that community and education need to go hand-in-hand. I am a believer in the old adage that ‘it takes a village to raise a child’. I am interested in researching ways that our

government can enhance the education of our young people. Lastly, I am interested in actively pursuing businesses that promote unity and provide services that will make our community more profitable and engaging. As a community we are growing. I feel we can find businesses that our residents want and that will help our community grow the way we want it to.

“If elected ... I will work cohesively to make the best decisions for OUR community. I can't make promises about issues now that have not yet occurred. However, I can promise to make what I feel is the best decision at the time. I will always have the community's best interest at heart.”

## REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR TRUSTEE

### Ann Frances Fioritto

Ann Frances Fioritto, age 35, of 44615 Greenbriar Drive, is running for trustee on the Republican ticket.

Fioritto ran for VBT Supervisor in 2008 and received nearly 40% of the Republican vote in the primary election.

She has two sons, Tyler, 19, and Evan, 7. She has lived in the township for 11 years and is a Clinical Research Project Manager.

Fioritto attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and graduated in the top 10% of her class. She earned a bachelor of science degree in chemistry and biochemistry and completed courses in economics, calculus, and statistics.

Before that, she attended Bishop Foley Catholic High School in Madison Heights and was valedictorian of her graduating class.

During the course of career in discovery and development of new medicines, she has presented independent research at national meetings, and has published manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals.

As a clinical research project manager, she currently manages the clinical trials program at a private practice and has developed her skills in both communications with patients as well in contract and budget negotiations with the sponsors.

She is a member of several professional organizations, including the American Society for Public Administration and the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management.

Fioritto was elected to serve two terms on the board of directors for the Greenbriar Homeowners Association. She served as board vice president, as well as chairperson of Architectural Review. As a member of the board, she helped to evaluate contracts and the budget, improved the safety of the community, and upheld association bylaws.

She has been active in the Boy Scouts of America and served as a den leader for Tiger, Wolf, and Bear Cub Scouts and as a Webelos I and II den leader.

Besides being a hockey mom and hockey coach for her sons' teams, she also is an avid hockey player.

Fioritto said she is running for the position of trustee because she wants to put Van Buren Township on the map as an area that is highly sought after by families and businesses.

Her goals include Safety (for roads, and support for police and fire), Services (such as Neighborhood Acceptance Plan that allows township residents to secure resident rates for facilities such as the Romulus Athletic Center and the Canton Public Library), and Economic Growth.





# VOTERS GUIDE FOR AUG. 7 PRIMARY ELECTION SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION

## 11 candidates run for seven elected positions in Sumpter Township

Eleven candidates, all Democrats, are running for seven positions open on the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees.

The winners in Sumpter likely will be decided in the Aug. 7 primary election because there currently is no opposition by Republicans.

Crystal Wood, a candidate that filed for clerk, withdrew her candidacy by the deadline for withdrawing.

The incumbents, plus one, are running for re-election as the Vawters Team. Current Trustee Linda Kennedy, who is ill and hasn't attended a township board meeting since May 2011, is not running for re-election.

Don Swinson, chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission, is running on the Vawters slate for the open trustee position.

Candidates graciously returned their candidate forms sent out by the *Independent* seeking information for publication.

### Sumpter Supervisor

#### Johnny Vawters, incumbent

Johnny Vawters, age 75, 46425 Wear Road, is running for re-election as Supervisor of Sumpter Township.

He and his wife Pamela have lived in Sumpter for 21 years. They have 10 children, 15 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Vawters served as UAW president of the Dearborn Assembly Plant and Bargaining Committee; UAW Local 600 recording secretary, second vice-president, and first vice president.

He is a member of the Sumpter Democratic Caucus Club, the Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club, United Workers Club, Sumpter Progressive League, Michigan Democratic Club, Local 600 Retirees Chapter, NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), and SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference).

He said he enjoys golfing, fishing, hunting, and spending time with his family.

Vawters said he is running for re-election because, "I feel that my passion in life is to help people. Being the Supervisor in Sumpter Township, I get the opportunity to do that. It makes me happy when others are happy."

"I want to continue doing all I can to ensure that all residents have 'peace of mind', and I feel safe in their community. I also believe in working together, as a team, with all township officials and employees, for a better relationship amongst each other and residents of Sumpter (Because we are Family!)."

Vawters said his goals once he is re-elected are: "To keep Sumpter Township moving forward and to work united with the entire Board of Sumpter, employees, and all citizens of Sumpter Township."

"I also want to help keep our citizens and visitors safe by keeping adequate Policemen and Firemen (Emergency Response Teams) in the township."

### Sumpter Supervisor

#### Vincent Warren

Vincent E. Warren, 42, has lived for three years on Dunn Road with his family. He is running against incumbent Supervisor Johnny Vawters in the Aug. 7 primary, where the race is almost certain to be decided since both contenders are Democrats and no Republican has so far shown interest in the position.

Warren has been married to Cindy for more

than 23 years and they have seven children: Vincent B., Lauren, Alicia, Miranda, Evan, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. They also have a grandson, Antoine Cannon. They moved here from Oakland County.

Warren graduated from Clinton Street Academy in Detroit and immediately joined the Navy, serving 1988-91. He was a cook on the U.S.S. Iowa battleship. Six months after boot camp he came home and married Cindy, a longtime friend. They both grew up in Christian families who knew each other.

He served in the Persian Gulf. While onboard the Iowa, he was present when 47 of his comrades died after a turret exploded in an accident on April 19, 1990. He became a Religious Petty Officer, someone men just came to talk to.

After he left the Navy, he said he had a pull to get into Human Services and became a substance abuse counselor at the Veterans Administration in Ann Arbor, helping and counseling the homeless, feeding the homeless, and housing them.

He and his wife both are working on their master's degrees in Human Services.

Warren said he gets a sense of satisfaction from helping people. Sometimes the help is just being able to refer people to the proper agencies for county, state, and federal programs.

"I need to help people and that's why I'm running, not just to have the title of Supervisor," Warren said.

Warren said his family has been residents of Sumpter Township for over 50 years and as a young child his family would come out every weekend to help his aunts and uncles care for their livestock and properties.

Warren said he has a proven track record with federal, state, and county level community resources, has helped displaced families find resources, led non-profit and faith-based organization, worked with seniors with Alzheimer's disease and other issues to ensure a quality of life, set up youth programs, and advocated for veterans.

"I have sat and talked with many of the residents in Sumpter Township, and I began to listen to their concerns and how they felt the township has not dealt with the things that matter most to them," Warren said.

"It has been stated that this is the reason they do not vote. If elected Supervisor, the voice of ALL of the citizens will be heard and their concerns will be addressed."

### Sumpter Clerk

#### Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr, incumbent

Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr., of 45100 Dunn Road, is running unopposed for re-election as clerk.

He is married with four children and has been a Sumpter resident for over 50 years. He retired from the Ford Motor Co. after 44 years of service.

Hoffman is a veteran, 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Mason, and a Shriner.

Hoffman has a long career of public service in Sumpter Township. He served as supervisor for four years, clerk for 14 years, treasurer for two years, and trustee for four years. He was a member of the Constable Association for 10 years and was vice president of the Wayne Division. He is a member of the Michigan Democratic Party, Sumpter Seniors, and serves on the Planning Commission.

Hoffman is one of the founding members of

Nourishing Gardens Food Bank and Outreach Program, developed in 2003 to help low-income residents in Sumpter Township with emergency food and other services provided at no cost. He points out it is the only program of its kind in Sumpter Township.

He is a member of CAF 5, another program started to assist families in need.

Hoffman reports he has worked to improve the fire and police departments, complete water lines so everyone can have safe drinking water, extend sewer lines, add new "radio meters", and worked to bring emergency warning sirens to the township.

Hoffman said among his goals are "We need to complete the Township Master Plan and seek out Economic Development to improve the tax base and keep our property tax as low as possible. I will focus on the spirit of what is best for Sumpter Township and continue to improve the services and activities for all Sumpter Township citizens."

### Sumpter Treasurer

#### John W. Morgan, incumbent

John W. Morgan, age 79, of 27555 Sumpter Road, is running for re-election as treasurer.

He and his wife Beatrice have lived in the township for 36 years. They have two children, Jacqueline and Gary.

Morgan is a retired teacher from the Romulus Community Schools. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Eastern Michigan University and his master of arts degree in School Administration from EMU.

Morgan was appointed township treasurer in 1982. In 1984 he was elected and continued to be elected until the present.

Morgan enjoys fitness, golf, gardening, and fishing.

He is a member of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts, Wayne County Treasurers' Association, Michigan Municipal Treasurers' Association, Treasurer of Sumpter Progressive League, Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel, Michigan Democratic Party, and Sumpter Township Democratic Caucus Club.

In explaining why he is running for re-election, Morgan said, "I love Sumpter Township deeply and I am very passionate about seeing it thrive and prosper as a safe, diverse community in a distinctly rural setting where families can live and raise their children."

"I feel that my proven commitment to this township and my experience will continue to help greatly in this process. The present township board is working harmoniously all for the same goal of making Sumpter Township the gem of Wayne County."

Morgan said his goals include, "First and foremost, we must continue to operate within our budgetary constraints while doing our utmost to provide services at the current levels. After that, we must strengthen our alliance with responsible county departments to ensure that our roads are properly maintained and that our ditches and major drains are cleaned WITHOUT assessing property owners."

"We must use appropriate state agencies, as well as increase our own efforts, to attract business into our industrial areas as a means of keeping property taxes down."

"As a township, we will certainly remain autonomous. However, the State of Michigan has encouraged and rewarded neighboring communities who consolidate certain services whenever feasible as a cost-saving measure."

"To this end, Sumpter Township has recently consolidated dispatch series with Huron Township and has applied for a State grant for reimbursement of the cost of the move."

### Sumpter Treasurer Andrea Chamberlain

Andrea Chamberlain, age 28, of 19930 Crandell Court, is making her second bid for the treasurer position. She unsuccessfully ran as an independent candidate for treasurer in 2008.

Chamberlain and her significant other Andrew have a child Allan Wayne, 10 months old, and she currently is a stay-at-home mom.

She graduated from Belleville High School in the Class of 2001 and studied math, science, and business applications of computers over four years at Wayne County Community College District.

Chamberlain is a member of the Michigan Democratic Party, the 15<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Organization, the Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club, the Sumpter Democratic Caucus Club, and St. Anthony's parish.

She said she is running for office because, "I would like to see real change in the community. I would like to help bring the township into the 21<sup>st</sup> century while still maintaining the peace and quiet that is a part of country living. I feel I can bring a fresh perspective to the table and better represent the younger demographic that makes up the township."

Once elected, Chamberlain said her goals are, "to make our local government more transparent and accountable. I would also like to promote growth as a community, to be more reliant upon local businesses and services. Additionally, I would work to institute a curbside recycling program."

Chamberlain said she has been endorsed by the 15<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Organization, the U.A.W. and the Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club.

### Sumpter Trustee Candidates 4 to be elected

#### Trustee Candidate

#### Alan Bates, incumbent

Alan Bates, age 69, of 17469 Odyssey, is running for re-election as trustee.

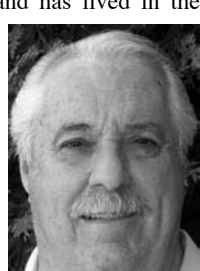
Bates is not married and has lived in the township for 32 years. He is retired.

He earned a Bachelor in Business Administration from Eastern Michigan University.

Bates was elected township trustee in 2004 and then again in 2008.

Bates said he is running for re-election because, "The people of Sumpter and Sumpter Township are important. I'm running again to continue serving them to the best of my ability."

(Continued on next page)



# VOTERS GUIDE FOR AUG. 7 PRIMARY ELECTION SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION

(Bates continued)

His goals, once re-elected, are to “minimize waste, to provide the most services and the best services to the people of Sumpter with the monies that are available.”

## Trustee Candidate James C. Clark

Jim Clark, 69, of 23623 Sumpter Road, is running for trustee for a second try. In 2008 he ran unsuccessfully for trustee.

Clark has lived in Sumpter for 54 years. He is married to Toni and his children are Jim, Loni, Melissa, Lisa, and Alisa.

Clark was an engineer at Ford Motor Co., with a bachelor of science degree from Wayne State University and a year of post-graduate work at Central Michigan University.

He is a licensed builder. He had been appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals and served as Planning and Building Inspector. Clark currently serves on the Planning Commission.

He is a member of the Moose and enjoys chess as a hobby.

“I look forward to serving the residents of Sumpter Township as Trustee and will do my best to move the township forward, with the help of the residents.”

## Trustee Candidate Bill Hamm, incumbent

Bill Hamm, age 57, of 21411 Karr Road, is running for re-election as trustee.

He is married to Chris and they have four children. They have lived in the township for 14 years.

Hamm retired from Ford Motor Co. after 32 ½ years of service and has served as a paid-per-call Sumpter Township fire fighter for five years.

Hamm has a high school education and training in Ford Leadership, Fire Fighters training for 1 & 2, and MRF Has-mat.

Hamm belongs to the Democratic Club of Southwestern (Wayne) County, Sumpter Democratic Caucus, UAW, Hovercraft Club, Scuba, and enjoys tropical plants.

As township trustee, Hamm serves as Building Department Liaison and has served on the Planning Commission and the Library Committee.

Hamm said he is running for office because, “I feel the people need a voice, to keep a country appeal in Sumpter that I hold so dear, and keep a town that people can spend money right here in Sumpter, like a Kroger’s, Taco Bell, tractor supply.”

His goals, once elected, are: “Continue to watch the fiancés of our township, to keep Public Safety moving forward, road improvements, drains clean out, and keep taxes low and promote new businesses in town. Finally, to complete a digital sign in the heart of the township for township events.”

## Trustee Candidate Martin Kalasz

Martin (Marty) Kalasz, age 63, is running for a trustee position, his first bid for elective office.

He was born and raised in Sumpter and served four years in the U.S. Navy. He recently retired as a truck driver from Teamsters Local 299.

Kalasz has been a member of the Sumpter Township Fire Department for 40-plus years. He also is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4434 and the Polish Legion of

American Veterans Post 167.

He has been very active in the community over the years, helping to organize the Sumpter Firefighters’ Haunted House, serving as a Goodfellow for more than 40 years, chairing and co-chairing both the Parks and Recreation and Sumpter Fest committees, along with the Sumpter Social Civic Club Bingo.

He also is active with the Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club and the Sumpter Democratic Caucus Club.

He enjoys hunting and camping.

He said he feels he has a very good understanding of critical township issues and looks forward to representing all the citizens of Sumpter in an elected capacity.

Kalasz said he is running for office specifically to, “try to cut down on spending, try to get more grants to fix roads and ditches, and for the senior program.”

Once elected, his goal would be to, “reduce spending, get more money out of the dump, help get programs for kids, get roads paved with state and federal money, not taxpayer money, and the same for the ditches.”

## Trustee Candidate Peggy Morgan, incumbent

Peggy Morgan, age 53, of 46330 Claxton Dr., is running for re-election as township trustee.

She and her husband Bud have lived in the township for 27 years. They have two sons, Richard and David, and a grandson Riley.

Morgan is employed as a bus driver by the Van Buren Public Schools Transportation Department. She has a high school diploma.

Morgan was first elected trustee in 2004 and then was re-elected in 2008.

She is a member of the Michigan Democratic Party, the Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club, a founding member of the Sumpter Democratic Caucus Club, and the Michigan Education Association.

“I’m running for office because I love serving the residents of Sumpter Township as one of their representatives on the township board.

“My goals are to keep Sumpter moving forward, as I believe the current board has done. Also, to continue to make sure we have a balanced budget, as we have had for eight straight years, without cutting services to the residents,” she said.

## Trustee Candidate Don Swinson

Don Swinson, age 49, of 46490 Claxton Drive, has joined the Vawters Team to run for the open slot as trustee. Swinson ran for trustee in 2008, but didn’t campaign at all and almost won.

He has lived in and around Sumpter Township for most of his life. He is married to Holly and they have a daughter Selena, age 16.

Swinson is employed at Atchinson Ford and has been on the sales team for 15 years. He currently is chairman of Sumpter Township Parks and Recreation Commission, president of the Democratic Caucus of Sumpter Township, a member of

the Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club, and is in his fifth year of serving on the Sumpter Planning Commission.

He is a graduate of Belleville High School. He is a member of Professional Alliance of Belleville (BNI) and Master Certified through Ford Motor Co. He graduated from Dale Carnegie, majoring in effective speaking and human relations, and completed Dynamic of Personnel Leadership and the Industrial Engineering Methods programs.

Swinson’s hobbies include spending time with his family, fishing, golfing, and exercising, as well as community volunteerism.

He said his objective is to maintain a high level of effectiveness and productivity by contributing his talent and efforts to a community that encourages productive thoughts and positive

results.

He said he possesses integrity, strong moral beliefs, common sense, objective thinking, self motivation, excellent communication skills, organization, and a goal-oriented philosophy.

Swinson said he is a well-disciplined individual who is very personable and conscientious towards others.

He said his goals for the township are to achieve unity with the board and the residents of Sumpter Township to work as one. His plan is to create an open forum for residents to be able to have an integral involvement in township issues/concerns and decisions.

“I am not a politician,” Swinson said. “I am a citizen just like you, looking out for the betterment of our township and our community.”



Independent photos by Rosemary K. Otzman

At Saturday’s annual Family Fun Day in Sumpter Township, these members of the Parks and Recreation Commission handed out hot dogs and chips and lots of cold water. From left are Joanne Posegay, Cheryl Toms, Dru Allen, and Margaret Rochon.



Sumpter Township Police Det. John Toth, right, congratulates his 15-year-old son Logan for scoring the final point for the Sumpter Police/Fire team in Saturday’s softball game against the Belleville Police/Fire team at Sumpter’s Family Fun Day. Sumpter won the annual game, for the first time in years, with a 15-8 final score. Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor, who is out on medical leave, was present to watch from the sidelines for a short time and was in place to catch a foul ball.

# City of Belleville Public Notice

## CITY OF BELLEVILLE NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

In compliance with State Election Law 168, Section 798, a test will be conducted on Wednesday, August 1, 2012 at 3:00 P. M. in City Hall, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI for the purpose of certifying the program to be used in the counting device which will be utilized to process voter ballots in the Tuesday, August 7, 2012 Primary Election. Test will be open to the public and any concerned citizens may attend.

The City of Belleville will provide, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations with advance notice to the Clerk's Office, 734-697-9323.

Lisa Long  
City Clerk

Publish: July 26, 2012



*Independent photo by James Otzman*

On Tuesday, the long-vacant and deteriorating gas station at the corner of Main and Third streets in downtown Belleville was demolished and hauled away.

# Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

## NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION FOR SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2012

To the Qualified Electors of CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN—  
WAYNE COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that Monday, August 6, 2012 is the last day to register to vote or change your address for the above stated election.

If you are not currently registered to vote or have changed your address in the above stated jurisdiction in which you live, you may do so at the following locations and times listed in this notice.

Qualified electors may also register to vote or change their address in the following manners:

### In Person:

At the township clerk's office or at the office of any county clerk during normal business hours.

At any of the Secretary of State Branch offices located throughout the state during normal business hours.

At the specified agency for clients receiving services through the Family Independence Agency, the Department of Community Health, Michigan Jobs Commission and some offices of the Commission for the Blind.

At the military recruitment offices for persons enlisting in the armed forces.

### By Mail:

By obtaining and completing a Mail Voter Registration Application and forwarding to the election official as directed on the application by the close of registration deadline. Mail voter registration applications may be obtained by contacting:

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP CLERK  
46425 TYLER RD.  
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, MI 48111

Telephone number: 734.699.8909

### Qualifications for Registration

1. Applicant is at least 18 years of age.
2. Resident of Van Buren Township for at least 30 days.
3. Citizen of the United States.

### Note:

A Person who registers to vote by mail is required to vote in person unless they have previously voted in person in the city/township where they live or are at least 60 years of age or are handicapped.

Applications for Absentee Voter Ballots are available at the Clerk's Office. The deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the September 5, 2012 Special Election is Saturday, September 1, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Clerk's office.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Publish: 7-26-12

# City of Belleville Public Notice

## CITY OF BELLEVILLE NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION FOR SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2012

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE, WAYNE  
COUNTY, STATE OF MICHIGAN:

Notice is hereby given that Monday, August 6, 2012 is the last day to register to vote or change your address for the above stated election.

If you are not currently registered to vote or have changed your address in the City you may do so at the following locations and times listed in this notice.

Qualified electors may also change their address in the following manners:

### In Person:

At the City Hall Clerk's office, or at the office of any County Clerk during normal business hours.

At any Secretary of State Branch office located throughout the State during normal business hours.

At the specified agency for clients receiving services through the Family Independence Agency, the Department of Community Health, Michigan Jobs Commission and some office of the Commission for the Blind.

At the military recruitment offices for persons enlisting in the armed forces.

### By Mail:

By obtaining and completing a Mail Voter Registration Application and forwarding to the Clerk's office by the close of registration deadline. Mail voter registration applications may be obtained by contacting:

Lisa Long, City Clerk  
(734)697-9323 ext. 7010  
6 Main Street  
Belleville, MI 48111

**Note:** A person who registers to vote by mail is required to vote in person unless they have previously voted in person in the City/Township where they live or are at least 60 years of age or are handicapped.

### QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION:

1. Applicant is at least 18 Years of age.
2. Resident of Belleville for at least 30 days.
3. Citizen of the United States.

**APPLICATIONS FOR ABSENTEE VOTER BALLOTS** are available at the City Clerk's office, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111. Deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the September 5, 2012, Special Primary Election is Saturday, September 1, 2012 from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the City Clerk's office.

Lisa Long, City Clerk

Publish: July 26, 2012



## More Letters

### Victoria Commons ponds, park taken away?

To the Editor:

I'm writing in regards to a letter I've received from the City of Belleville.

I'm a resident of Victoria Commons. I'm an original owner who bought my house under the original agreement with Crosswinds Housing Development. When I bought my house I was given documents that showed I owned 1/264 of all common areas, that includes all of our park, our streets were private, our ponds were private. I have the original drawings of the community that I purchased my home in. It shows plainly all of the commons areas that are held by the association.

After the development was finished, the association board was handed over to the residents of our community. One of our board members, who also was found to be a member of the Belleville DDA, made a deal with the DDA to give away the private park owned by the residents of Victoria Commons to the City of Belleville.

How could anyone give away somebody's property without permission? Well, I was never given notice or compensated for my property.

You ask why? Well, I believe that the City could use the property in a request to the state for parks and recreational money, which they did.

They used the money to put in a drug park, oops, I meant Skate Park.

The bottom line is that this property was taken away from the residents of Victoria Commons without permission from the people who owned it and I would mention that if all of the original owners look at their mortgage papers they would find that their mortgages hold title to all of that common area land.

I've spoken to my mortgage lady and she said that there is a problem. If collateral for the mortgage has been removed from the mortgage, then the mortgage holder would be held accountable for the loss of value.

In the letter from this city official, I'm being told that I can't use the water in the ponds for personal use, watering my yard.

I've never known of any law that allows ownership of rain water.

When I bought my house in '97, I paid a \$10,000 premium for a lot that had access to the ponds and park. I have always been under the assumption that that premium granted me access to this resource. And now, I'm being denied.

Please, if any attorneys have experience with association bylaws and city management, I'd like to have them contact me. Also, any original owners that have concerns about their situation, please contact me at 313-402-8806.

Dan Clark  
Belleville.



# City of Belleville Public Notice



## CITY OF BELLEVILLE NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION AUGUST 7, 2012

In accordance with Michigan Election Law, Act 116 of 1954 Section 168.653(a); notice is hereby given to the registered voters of the City of Belleville that the PRIMARY ELECTION will be held TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2012.

Polls are open from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. EST.

Polling place locations for the City of Belleville:

Precinct #1 and Precinct #2 are located at St. Anthony's Church (Father Folta Building), 409 W. Columbia

Each person voting in the election must be:

- (a) A citizen of the United States of America over eighteen (18) years of age.
- (b) A registered elector of the City of Belleville.

The following Offices will be voted upon:

United States Senator

United States Representative in Congress

Representative in State Legislature

Prosecuting Attorney

Sheriff

County Clerk

County Treasurer

Register of Deeds

County Commissioner

Delegate to County Convention

Judge of Third Circuit Court, Non-Incumbent Position – Vote 3

### Ballot Proposal

The following Wayne County Art Institute Authority Millage will be voted upon:

The Wayne County Art Institute Authority was established pursuant to Public Act 296 of 2010 and formed to allow for continuing support of art institute services for the students, residents and visitors of Wayne County. The law allows the Authority to seek authorization from the electors to levy a tax of not more than 0.2 mill (20 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value) on real and personal property to provide revenue to an art institute services provider for this purpose. Accordingly, to continue providing art institute services to benefit the residents of the County, shall a 0.2 mill on all of the taxable property located within the County be imposed for a period of ten (10) years, being years 2012 through 2021? It is estimated that if approved and levied, this new millage would generate approximately \$8,284,722 in 2012.

Shall this proposal be adopted?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

### Proposition J

The following Wayne County Jails Millage Renewal will be voted upon:

To renew the millage authorized in 2002, shall Wayne County be authorized to continue to levy this millage at the 2011 rollback rate of .9381 mills (about 94 cents per thousand dollars of taxable valuation) for ten more years (2012 through 2021 for any of the following previously authorized uses:

To acquire, construct, and/or operate jail, misdemeanor, or juvenile incarceration or detention facilities, and for adult penalty options such as work release, home detention and community restitution; with at least one-tenth of the millage used to acquire build and operate a juvenile offender work/training institution? This renewal is estimated to generate at least \$38,859,493 in property tax revenue in 2012.

Shall this proposal be adopted?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the following statement has been received from the County Treasurer of the County of Wayne as to previously voted increases in the constitutional tax rate limitation affecting taxable property in the Community College District, to wit:

### The County Treasurer's Statement

"I, Raymond J. Wojtowicz, Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan, do hereby certify that as of June 27, 2012 the total of all voted increases in excess of the tax rate limitation established by Section 6 of Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Michigan, as amended, and the years such increases are effective on property in the County of Wayne are as follows:

WAYNE COUNTY  
Wayne County, Michigan  
Van Buren School District

(continued on page 29)



# City of Belleville Public Notice



(continued from page 28)

Taxing Authorities	Election	Voted Increase	Effective
Wayne County	November 2, 2010	1 mil	2015
Wayne County Jail	August 6, 2002	1 mil	2011
Wayne County Parks	November 2, 2010	.25 mills	2015
Wayne County Community College	November 6, 2009	1.5 mills	2020
Van Buren Public School District	August, 2011	18 mills	2016 (non homestead only)
	June, 1998	1.30 mills	2015
Belleville Area District Library	November 2, 2010	0.7 mills	2022

NOTICE FURTHER GIVEN, that all polling places located in the City of Belleville to be used at the August 7, 2012 primary election are accessible to voters who are elderly or handicapped.

NOTICE FURTHER GIVEN, that any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter's choice other than the voter's employer or agent of that employee or officer or agent of the voter's union.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, by the City Clerk in accordance with Section 168.653 of the Michigan Election Law, as amended, and Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Application for Absentee Voter Ballots are available at the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111. Deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the August 7, 2012 Primary Election is Saturday, August 4, 2012 from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Lisa Long  
City Clerk

Publish: July 26, 2012

## 18<sup>th</sup>-annual Don Rochon Car Show/Swap Meet set for Sept. 16 in Sumpter

By Bob Mytych

Independent Sports Editor

The 18<sup>th</sup>-annual Don Rochon Memorial 2012 Car Show & Swap meet is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sumpter Township Fairgrounds, located behind the Sumpter Community Center.

Car Show entry fee is \$15 and awards will be presented at 3:30 p.m. in 24 categories. Entries close at 12:30 p.m. Swap meet exhibitors can rent a 10x10 foot space for \$20.

There will also be door prizes, 50/50 raffle, music, games, and food available.

The USA Demolition Derby and Enduro Racing Demo of Belleville will also be in front of the grandstand at 4 p.m. Admission will be \$12 for adults; \$4 for children ages 3-12.

"I think a newspaper should be provocative, stir 'em up, but you can't do that on television. It's just not on."  
— Rupert Murdoch

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES JULY 17, 2012

Supervisor White called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor White, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee Ostrowski and Trustee Partridge. Absent: None. Others in attendance: Public Safety Director McClanahan, Planning and Economic Development Services Director Carroll, DPW Director MacDonald, Executive Assistant/Assessing Coordinator Stevenson, Secretary Cline and an audience of forty-four (44).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Hart moved, Partridge seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

#### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes July 2, 2012; Closed Session Minutes July 2, 2012; Regular Board Meeting Minutes July 3, 2012; Adoption of Resolution 2012-14, a resolution to approve agreement between Van Buren Charter Township and Wayne County for the use of \$40,000 from Wayne County Parks Millage for the construction of a new walking/bike path and permanent picnic areas at Van Buren Park (Agreement approved by Board of Trustees at July 3, 2012 meeting); Adoption of Resolution 2012-15, Senior Alliance; Treasurer's request to extend without penalty the collection of the 2012 Summer Property Taxes through Monday, October 1, 2012.] as presented. Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Jahr moved, Hart seconded to approve combination of lots V125-83-059-01-00018-000 and V125-83-059-01-0019-000 (lots 18 and 19 Seymour and Troesters Belleville Sub) with the following conditions: The cost of any and/or all utility improvements must be borne

by the property owner(s); Approval in no way changes requirements of zoning of the parcels; Approval in no way implies or guarantees permits and/or approvals from federal, state, county or local agencies; This shall include but not be limited to roadway access point(s), natural feature requirements, utility requirements or any other valid requirement(s) from regulatory agencies; The Township is in receipt of all fees and costs as well as a certified survey; Approval is valid for six months. Carried.

**VOUCHER LIST:** Wright moved, Ostrowski seconded to approve the July 17, 2012 voucher list. Carried.

**REPORTS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Trustee Partridge announced the Belleville Area Council for the Arts is holding their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Art Affair on Main Street in the City of Belleville on Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>.

Clerk Wright made the following announcements. The next Board Meeting will be on August 21<sup>st</sup> due to the Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2012. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Due to a change in Michigan Election law instructions for voting ballots are now on secrecy sleeves and not printed in full text on top of ballots. Also, as a reminder to voters when voting the August Primary Election ballot Partisan Section there are two party sections on the ballot Republican Party and Democratic Party. You may vote in one party section only; you cannot "split your ticket." If you vote in more than one party section, your Partisan ballot portion will not count. A Call for a Special Primary Election and a Special General Election in the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District to fill a vacancy. The Special Primary Election will be held on September 5<sup>th</sup> and the Special General Election will be held in conjunction with the General Election on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Van Buren Township and Recall Corporation will host a free "Shred Day" on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Residents may drop off at the

township front parking lot a maximum of five cartons or medium size bags of documents per vehicle to be shredded. No three ring binders or metal of any kind please. A list of acceptable documents is posted at Van Buren website [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org) and cable channel 12.

Supervisor White reminded the audience of the Friday night concert series at Van Buren Park located on the South Service Drive.

John Delaney requested clarification of voting process for the Primary Election in the Partisan portion. If you "split your ticket" in the Partisan portion of the ballot the Partisan portion will not count, the Non-Partisan and Proposal sections will still count. Also, announced the launch of Van Buren Tea Party caucus and commented on the recent Patriot Day Event held by the Americans for Prosperity regarding the Public Safety Department and permits.

Dave Curson announced the process for candidates who want to be on the Special Primary Election on September 5, 2012 stating the filing deadline is July 20<sup>th</sup>.

Diane Madigan announced the Public Safety Committee will hold a Public Safety Department mid-year budget review meeting at Fire Station One located at Sumpter and Hull Roads on July 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Also, on August 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the Township Board room there will be a presentation on emergency sirens.

Dennis Moore, representative from the Willow Run Tea Party caucus thanked the Township and the Wayne County Fairgrounds for the Patriot Day Event held by the Americans for Prosperity and the launching of the Van Buren Tea Party caucus.

**AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items):** Comments were made from 7:57 p.m. to 8:57 p.m. by the Board and audience regarding the following topics: Visteon Bonds; Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA); Van Buren Civic Fund; assessment of property in township; safety concerns regarding fireworks and request for fireworks ordinance(s); contact state representative to request changes in state

laws regarding fireworks; Demonstrative Risk Ordinance; Patriot Day Event was a benefit for Wounded and Fallen Soldiers and raised \$10,000; Township attorney fees; Visteon Co-Generation project; Van Buren Township Tea Party caucus; Sequencing Standards regarding Visteon project; Master Plan; three minute rule for public comment at Board meeting; Public Safety Budget; lack of answers and feedback to audience questions; loss of Township events (fireworks and marshmallow drop); Police overtime; Haggerty Park hours; Fire Chief; Public Safety Director; legal fees; Board of Trustees; Assessor; fireworks permits; disrespectful audience; democratic process; FEMA floodplain map elevation corrections; landfill; Visteon property is current floodplain.

**CLOSED SESSION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Budd moved, Partridge seconded to adjourn at 8:57 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leon Wright, Township Clerk  
Paul D. White, Township Supervisor

### Asia Zierle-Ghosh starts medical training at MSU

Asia Zierle-Ghosh of Belleville is among the 315 students who are beginning classes as medical students at the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The class will take its preclinical training at one of three Michigan sites – on the MSU campus in East Lansing, at the Detroit Medical Center downtown, or at the Macomb University Center in Clinton Township.

Following that, they will receive two years of clinical education in one of the hospitals statewide affiliated with the college.

Asia earned a bachelor of science in nutrition at Wayne State University before heading to MSU.

# VBT to bill Americans for Prosperity \$6,044.66 for Sarah Palin event

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

A Freedom of Information Act request by John Delaney shows Van Buren Township Department of Public Safety will be billing Americans for Prosperity \$6,044.66 for coverage of Sarah Palin's 40-minute public appearance at the Wayne County Fairgrounds on July 14.

Delaney shared the documents with the *Independent* on Friday.

At a recent township meeting, Public Safety Director Carl McClanahan said his department was tallying up their costs and Americans for Prosperity will be invoiced.

The Patriots in the Park event, which brought almost 3,000 people to the fairgrounds, was sponsored by Americans for Prosperity-Michigan and the Willow Run Tea Party Caucus. A new Van Buren Township Tea Party Caucus was kicked off that day.

The costs of overtime, food, and water / Gatoraid for police personnel totaled \$3,574.58 and included:

- Capt. G. Laurain, 10 hrs. @ \$74.48 = \$744.80
- Lt. E. Thornsbury, 9 hrs. @ \$52.15 = \$469.35
- Sgt. F. Yono, 9 hrs. @ \$47.85 = \$430.65
- Ofc. P. Wehrman, 9 hrs. @ \$41.79 = \$376.11
- Ofc. D. Harrison, 9 hrs. @ \$41.79 = \$376.11
- Ofc. C. Traster, 8.5 hrs. @ \$41.79 = \$355.22
- Ofc. M. Long, 7 hrs. @ \$41.79 = \$292.53
- Ofc. M. Buxton, 4 hrs. @ \$41.79 = \$167.16
- Water/Gatoraid for PS Personnel, \$109.84
- Box lunches for PS Personnel, \$252.81

The costs of overtime hours for fire department personnel totaled \$2,470.08 and included:

- Captain Karver, 9 hrs. @ \$56.68 = \$510.12
- Lt. Robson\*, 13 hrs. @ \$23.56 = \$306.28
- FF Hayden, 9 hrs. @ \$22.26 = \$200.34
- FF Shores, 8 hrs. @ \$22.26 = \$178.08
- FF Sorrell, 9 hrs. @ \$22.26 = \$200.34
- FF VanGemert, 9 hrs. @ \$22.26 = \$200.34
- FF Marcotte\*, 15 hrs. @ \$22.26 = \$333.90
- FF Worth, 9 hrs. @ \$22.26 = \$200.34
- FF Brouillette, 9 hrs. @ \$22.26 = \$200.34
- EMS Bike, 7 hrs. @ \$10 = \$70.00
- EMS Bike, 7 hrs. @ \$10 = \$70.00

\* Extra hours are for picking up, dropping off equipment and supplies (golf cart and Gators)

Director McClanahan said there was no written agreement to provide Public Safety

personnel for the event, but the man in charge of Sarah Palin security asked them to be present.

Admittance was free to the Patriots in the Park event, but parking was \$5 per vehicle,

all going to the Wounded Warriors fund. On July 17, Dennis Moore of the Willow Run Tea Party Caucus told the VBT Board of Trustees that the event raised \$10,000 for the Wounded Warriors.

**The Belleville-Area Independent New Website is Now Online! Visit us @ [bellevilleareaaindependent.com](http://bellevilleareaaindependent.com) Read The Newspaper On The Web!**

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION – AUGUST 7, 2012

In accordance with Michigan Election Law, Act 116 of 1954 Section 168.653 (a), notice is hereby given to the registered voters of the Charter Township of Van Buren that the Primary Election will be held TUESDAY, August 7, 2012.

Polls are open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST. Polling place locations for Van Buren Township:

Precinct #1	North Middle School	47097 McBride
Precinct #2	Fire Station #2	7981 Belleville
Precinct #3	Van Buren Township Hall (Board Room)	46425 Tyler Rd.
Precinct #4	Van Buren Township Hall (Gym)	46425 Tyler Rd
Precinct #5	Tyler Elementary School	42299 Tyler Rd.
Precinct #6	Fire Station #1	45400 Hull Rd
Precinct #7	Belleville High	501 W. Columbia
Precinct #8	Savage Elementary School	42975 Savage Rd
Precinct #9	Savage Elementary School	42975 Savage Rd
Precinct #10	South Middle School	45201 Owen St.

All polling place locations are handicap accessible. To obtain election instructions in an alternative format (audio or Braille), contact the Clerk's Office prior to Election Day.

Candidates of the Republican and Democratic parties and non-partisan candidates for the following offices will be voted upon in the County of Wayne:

United States Senator  
United States Representative in Congress  
State Representative  
Prosecuting Attorney  
Sheriff  
County Clerk  
County Treasurer  
Register of Deeds  
County Commissioner  
Judge of Third Circuit Court, Non-Incumbent position – Vote for 3  
And in Township:  
Supervisor  
Clerk  
Treasurer  
Trustees – Vote for 4  
Delegate to County Convention

#### COUNTY PROPOSALS

##### Wayne County Art Institute Authority Millage

The Wayne County Art Institute Authority was established pursuant to Public Act 296 of 2010 and formed to allow for continuing support of art institute services for the students, residents and visitors of Wayne County. The law allow the Authority to seek authorization from the electors to levy a tax of not more than 0.2 mill (20 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value) on real and personal property to provide revenue to an art institute services provider for this purpose. Accordingly, to continue providing art institute series to benefit the residents of the County, shall a 0.2 mill on all of the taxable property located within the County be imposed for a period of ten (10) years 2012 through 2021? It is estimated that if approved and levied, this new millage would generate approximately \$8,284,722 in 2012.

YES  
NO

#### PROPOSITION J JAILS MILLAGE RENEWAL

To renew the millage authorized in 2002, shall Wayne County be authorized to continue to levy this millage at the 2011 rollback rate of .9381 mills (about 94 cents per thousand dollars of taxable valuation) for ten more years (2012 through 2021) for any of the following previously authorized uses: To acquire, construct, and/or operate jail, misdemeanor, or juvenile incarceration or detention facilities, and for adult penalty options such as work release, home detention and community restitution; with at least one-tenth of the millage used to acquire, build and operate a juvenile offender work/training institution? This renewal is estimated to generate at least \$38,859,493 in property tax revenue in 2012.

YES  
NO

#### The County Treasurer's Statement:

I, Raymond J. Wojtowicz, Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan do hereby certify that, as of June 27, 2012 the total of all voted increases in excess of the tax rate limitation established by Section 6, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Michigan, as amended, and the years such increases are effective on property in the County of Wayne are as follows:

(continued on page 31)



# Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

(continued from page 30)

Wayne County  
Wayne County Michigan

<u>Taxing Authorities</u>	<u>Date of Election</u>	<u>Voted Increases</u>	<u>Years Increases Effective</u>
County of Wayne	August 2, 2010	1 mill	2015
Wayne County Jail	August 6, 2002	1 mill	2011
Wayne County Parks	November 2, 2010	0.25 mills	2015
Wayne County Community College	November 6, 2009	1.25 mills	2020
Charter Township of Van Buren	November 8, 2011	4 mill	2016
Lincoln Consolidated Schools	June, 1994	18 mills	2013 (non homest)
	June, 2003	2.0 mills	2013
	November 4, 2008	0.1 mills	2012
	November 8, 2011	18 mills	2016 (non homest)
Van Buren Public School District	November 4, 2008	1.3 mills	2015
	November 4, 2008	2.98 mills	2039
	November 4, 2008	0.7 mills	2022
Belleville Area District Library	November 2, 2010	0.7 mills	2022

Applications for Absentee Voter Ballots are available at the Clerk's Office, Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, MI 48111, 734-699-8909. Deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the August 7, 2012 Primary Election for Van Buren Township is Saturday, August 4, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Township Clerk's Office.

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

In compliance with State Election Law 168 Section 798, a Public Hearing will be conducted on Wednesday, August 1, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, Michigan for the purpose of certifying the program to be used in the counting device which will be utilized to process voter ballots in the Primary Election to be held Tuesday, August 7, 2012. Said meeting is open to the public and any concerned citizens may attend. The Charter Township of Van Buren will provide, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations with advance notice to the Clerk's Office, 734.699.8909.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Publish: 7-26-12

## Artaffair on Main is this Saturday and Sunday

Imagine a quaint, picturesque traditional Main Street lined with a spectacular array of traditional craft work, eclectic art work and beautiful antiques.

Add a variety of tasty, palate-pleasing food offerings. Mix in a delightful assortment of kid-friendly, make-and-take activities. And finally, top it all off with a medley of diverse entertainment.

Now, imagine that you don't really have to imagine this at all. You can actually experience it for yourself at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Artaffair on Main.

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts is proud to again bring Artaffair on Main to Downtown Belleville, Michigan on Saturday, July 28 and Sunday, July 29.

Whether your tastes run toward the traditional or the contemporary, this engaging and unique show promises to thrill all who attend by offering a truly distinctive selection of artisans, antiques and entertainment.

For fans of the beautiful styles of nature art, award-winning, Belleville-based artist Tim Marsh will be participating in this year's event. If your tastes run more toward display works, Ypsilanti-based Vicki Meyer will be returning with her eclectic mixture of exhibition pieces and yard art. There will also be a vast assortment of photographic works, pottery and a virtual cornucopia of other offerings to thrill the eye.

If you prefer a more traditional, historic beauty, the antiques end of Artaffair on Main may be more to your liking. With more than five generations of purveying the finest antiques, Schmidt's Antiques is sure to have a collection of beautiful treasures you'll want to make your own. Local antique specialists Doug Dalton Auctioneer and Main Street's own Antiques on Main will again be joining Artaffair to help lure your curiosity to experience the heirloom beauty of a bygone era.

Artaffair on Main will also feature Kidz Korner. This interactive children's area will host a collection of free, make-and-take activities for youngsters to create their own unique works of art. A trip to this joyful area will be sure to entertain even the most discriminating child.

Artaffair on Main 2012 is located on Main Street between Third and Fifth streets in Downtown Belleville. The show will run Saturday, July 28, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, July 29, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about this and the many other events offered by the Belleville Area Council for the Arts, you can visit them on the web at [bellevilleartscouncil.org](http://bellevilleartscouncil.org).

Kim Tindall, Corresponding Secretary  
Belleville Area Council for the Arts  
P.O. Box 1654, Belleville 48112



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**<http://gettag.mobi>**

"Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising."  
Mark Twain

## City of Belleville Public Notice

### PUBLIC NOTICE RFP City Engineering Services

The City of Belleville  
is accepting proposals for Engineering Services until  
**5:00 P.M. on August 20, 2012**

Proposals may be hand-delivered and must be in the City Clerk's office by 5:00 P.M. on Monday, August 20, 2012.

Each engineering firm should submit a single proposal which should be organized on the basis of the Six (6) Sections, and should provide sufficient information for all Sections. If you have questions about the intent of the requirements, please direct them to Diana Kollmeyer, City Manager.

The City intends to evaluate the proposals received and possibly conduct interviews with three or more firms. The City will independently select a firm based on the firm's qualifications and experience.

Six (6) complete copies of your proposal must be submitted in one or more sealed envelopes showing your name, marked "Engineering Services", and addressed to

Lisa Long, City Clerk  
6 Main Street  
Belleville MI 48111

Publish: July 26, 2012

## City of Belleville Public Notice

### City of Belleville REQUEST FOR BIDS

The City of Belleville will be accepting sealed bids for Cross Connection Inspections and Backflow Prevention Program. Bid Documents and Specifications are available at Belleville City Hall between the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. in the Clerk's Office.

**All bids must be sealed and clearly marked Cross Connection Bid** and delivered to the City Clerk by 4:00 P.M. Monday, August 6, 2012. City Hall is located at 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111. All bids will be opened publicly at the August 6, 2012 City Council Meeting starting at 7:30 P.M.

Lisa Long, City Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: July 26, 2012

## VBT Public Safety Committee reviews six-month budgets

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Township Public Safety Committee reviewed the six-month status of the Public Safety Department's budgets and found, starting with police, while the police budget was "safe" they will have to keep an eye on wages, training and fuel.

VBT Treasurer Sharry Budd furnished budget documents and led the budget reviews of the police, dispatch, and fire departments at the committee's July 18 special meeting held at Fire Station #1.

Treasurer Budd said police overtime is unusually high, but she never worries about overtime since if a neighbor decides to shoot somebody in the middle of the night, police have to respond.

But, she said, overtime needs to be watched and the wages line item will have to be increased.

Public Safety Director Carl McClanahan said what's driving the overtime costs is that he only has 38 officers. One is on family medical leave and one marine officer is disabled. He said he spends money on overtime each time the boat is put in the water on weekends. But, both officers will be returning.

He said there has been overtime for required department-wide training, but the firearms training and defensive tactics training are done for the year. He said there is possibly one more department-wide training needed.

He said there was a breaking-and-entering detail that took overtime as well as a prisoner who was hospitalized and they had to watch him 24 hours a day for four days pending a warrant.

Director McClanahan said there were large chunks of overtime for various events, including the Sarah Palin detail.

He said the average payroll is \$90,000 per pay period and there are 11 more payrolls

left this year and \$1.2 million remaining in that line item.

He said there will be cash payouts in November for sick and vacation pay, which will be about \$96,000.

"We'll be looking at \$1,196,000, which will leave us \$102,000," he said.

In a police department, it never works out when you try to judge overtime needs in advance, he said.

When Committee member Richard Wardwell asked if there was more overtime in the summer during vacation time, McClanahan said that was an issue. He said he has 17 officers available for patrol to fill the shifts. They need to fill the shifts and so pay overtime. When the two come back, they will be back to straight time for the shifts.

McClanahan said January is a unique month, since there generally are two payrolls, plus holiday pay, which is like another payroll.

"We're very, very close," he said of the margin.

When asked, McClanahan said the Air Show at Willow Run Airport is billed for overtime officers and pays for itself.

Committee chairperson Diane Madigan asked how many shifts there had been in the last three months where there were fewer than three cars on the road and McClanahan said there were none.

He said he is investigating the background of an officer to be hired for the one slot he is authorized to fill.

Madigan asked Trustee Phil Hart, who sits on the committee as board liaison, if he

had set up the mini-committee to consider hiring more officers and Hart said they haven't met yet. Hart asked McClanahan if he has done an analysis of what is needed.

"At one point we were in really good shape," McClanahan replied. "If we have all the available people, we'll be in good shape." He added, "We'll always have overtime."

When asked by Hart if only one was being hired, McClanahan said he needs one more. He has talked with the three full-time elected officials, but there has been no serious discussion yet.

McClanahan said, "I was authorized by the three full-time elected to hire one officer. I follow their direction."

Larry Fix said the township had a captain

(continued on page 35)



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GIANT MOVING SALE - 17925 Huron River Dr., New Boston. July 26-29, 9-6 p.m. Downsizing after 20 yrs. Power tools, Antiques, Household, Furniture. You Name It, It's Here. 7/26

HUGE YARD SALE - 13910 HOEFT RD off Huron River Dr. July 27-29, 9-6 p.m. Kitchen items, Sports equip., Nice clothes, Toys, Tools, Office equip., Leather coats. Something For Everyone. 7/26

MULTI FAMILY YARD SALE - 42 Clarence St., July 27-29, 10-?. Lots of discount Scentsy items plus misc. 7/26

BIG SALE - 48651 HARRIS RD., Sumpter. July 24-28. 7/26

YARD SALE - 24400/24455 BOHN RD. between Wear & Dunn Rds. July 26-28, 10-5 p.m. 7/26

YARD SALE - 1053 SAVAGE RD. Every Friday-Sunday starting July 27<sup>th</sup> thru August. Books, Movies, VHS, DVD, Boys clothes, Holiday items, Generator, Tools. Little Bit of Everything. 8/09

HUGE GARAGE SALE. 48631 SULLY Dr. August 2-4, 9-5 p.m. Tools, Horse tack, Household items. 8/02

HUGE GARAGE/YARD SALE. 21000 Martinsville Rd. July 27-30, 8-6 p.m. Personal, Household, Books, Gardening, Patio & Bar set, Tiller, Electric cement mixer, Log Splitter, Hay elevator, etc. 8/02

YARD SALE - 43105 RIGGS RD. AUG. 2-3, 9-5 p.m., Aug. 4, 9-3 p.m. All Proceeds to benefit Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. 8/02

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MOTOROLA T 45 hundred Walkie/Talkie. Found in Village Park by Victoria Commons July 11, 2012. (313) 515-3322 8/02

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RING FOUND at Belleville Rd. car wash July 19<sup>th</sup>. Call to identify. (734) 635-1531 8/09

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## VBT Pub. Safety

(continued from page 32)

retire and one officer was terminated this budget year.

"We're running closer to a full salary amount and both of those salaries are in the

budget," Fix pointed out.

Madigan pointed out the capital outlay line item is more than \$15,000 over budget and Budd said that was the \$14,000 for computers for the new cars, which put it over the \$81,000 total.

When asked, McClanahan said it takes six

to nine months to fully train a new officer.

Budd said, in answer to a question, that forfeitures and seizures are in a separate fund. She said court revenue is up 14%, totaling \$292,158.55 for January through May this year.

The committee discussed retirements that might be coming up and decided it appeared none were pending soon.

The committee then considered the dispatch budget, which, McClanahan pointed out, had exorbitant overtime. He said one dispatcher was sick and one was on family medical leave.

There is overtime training under way on the new 800 MHz communications system, he said.

"I think dispatchers are just about sick over overtime," McClanahan said.

Madigan questioned if there weren't safety issues if dispatchers are tired from overtime and wondered if new dispatchers shouldn't have been hired earlier.

McClanahan said one is chronically ill, one recent had a baby. Two very good dispatchers are coming on board, he said,

noting one dispatcher resigned in December or January.

Budd said relief is there and she doesn't see an extreme level of stress with the dispatchers.

After discussion of other issues, the attention turned to the fire department budget. Interim Fire Chief Dan Besson was introduced.

Budd said the overview of the fire budget shows that it should come out OK at the end of the year, but costs for telephone, transportation, and fuel may have problems.

McClanahan said the "transportation" problem is because the fire fleet is aging.

Budd said the \$821,528 FEMA grant applied for and in the budget, was not successful. McClanahan said the department submitted another grant application in hopes of getting a ladder truck.

Wardwell said he would like to see a replacement fund in the budget, so there will be money in place when high-ticket vehicles need to be replaced.

Budd said the township used to put \$80,000 away each year and they were able to buy three trucks paid over three years.

She said over the last few years that has not been done.

Delaney accused the supervisor of spending money by moving it from one account to another.

Supervisor Paul White said all seven board members have a vote on spending money and the supervisor does not have the right or authority to move money around.

"Anything over \$20,000 must come before the board," Supervisor White said.

Committee vice chairperson Reggie Miller asked White how he felt about putting money aside.

White replied as long as there is money in the budget, it can be used to purchase items.



**Treasurer - Van Buren Township**

# Harry Roesch

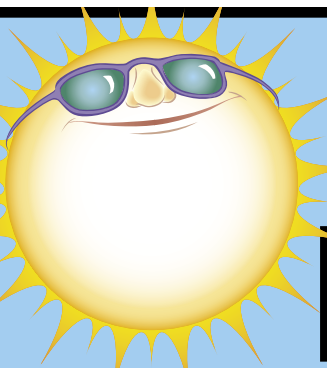
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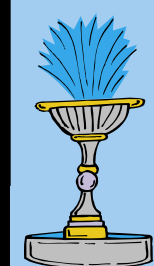


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